Chapter I

International peace and security

The year 2008 brought new challenges for international peace and security, as the United Nations worked to address several conflict situations, mainly in Africa, and further incidents of international terrorism, while supporting the efforts of post-conflict countries to sustain peace and stability, rebuild national institutions, and restore economic development.

The Security Council debated ways to strengthen collective security, stressing the importance of an effective multilateral system to better address global threats. It also reviewed UN assistance in helping States in conflict reform their security sector within the framework of the rule of law, and strengthening the Organization’s role in mediation and settlement of disputes. The Council took measures to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs so as to make it more effective in supporting UN peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict. The Peacebuilding Commission enhanced its involvement in that regard by establishing a country-specific configuration for the Central African Republic, bringing to four the number of countries emerging from conflict under consideration by the Commission. The Commission also conducted biannual reviews of the Burundi and Sierra Leone configurations and conducted missions to Guinea-Bissau to assess that country’s needs. During the year, the United Nations maintained 12 political and peacebuilding missions and offices.

The scale and frequency of international terrorist acts increased during the year, especially in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and reached countries previously untouched by the scourge. Concerned at the escalating situation, the Security Council, on 9 December, held a debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks around the world. The Council called upon all Member States to redouble efforts to tackle global terrorism by dedicating attention to bringing to justice the perpetrators, facilitators and masterminds of terrorist acts. The Council pledged to continue following developments in order to organize as efficiently as possible its efforts in combating terrorism, reaffirmed the importance of its resolutions and statements on terrorism, and stressed the need for implementing them. The Counter-Terrorism Committee reported significant progress by Member States in implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006.

The year marked the sixtieth anniversary of UN peacekeeping. The General Assembly, at a special commemorative session on 7 November to observe that event, adopted the Declaration on the Occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping, in which it paid tribute to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who, in the past 60 years, had served under the UN flag in more than 60 peacekeeping operations, and honoured the memory of more than 2,400 of them who had died in the cause of peace. To strengthen its peacekeeping capacity, the Organization considered strategies for conducting complex peacekeeping operations. It stepped up efforts to enhance the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, and considered a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General on conduct and discipline among UN peacekeeping personnel and initiatives to improve their welfare. A decrease of 64 per cent in allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel reflected the Organization’s concerted efforts to address that issue. At the end of 2008, there were 16 peacekeeping missions, served by 112,307 uniformed and civilian personnel.

Regarding the financial position of UN peacekeeping operations, expenditures increased by 21.7 per cent to $6,265.8 million for the 2007–2008 financial year, compared to $5,148.1 million for the previous reporting period; the increase was due mainly to the start-up of two missions and the rapid expansion of another.

Promotion of international peace and security

Maintenance of international peace and security

Security sector reform

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations consideration. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session (New York, 10 March–4 April and 3 July) [A/62/19], emphasized that security sector reform was an important aspect of multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector was one of the critical elements in the transition from UN peacekeeping to sustainable peace and development, including economic recovery. The Special Committee stressed that
the sustainability of security sector reform depended on national ownership, sustained international community support, including bilateral donors, and the engagement and commitment of the host countries and societies involved. The United Nations and the international community should avoid imposing external models of security sector reform and concentrate on strengthening the capacity of the host country to develop, manage and implement reform through inclusive consultation processes at all stages of transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and sustainable development. The UN approach to security sector reform should be flexible, adaptable and tailored to the country concerned.

The Special Committee acknowledged the leading role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in carrying out security sector reform activities in peacekeeping missions, and the significant contribution the Committee itself could make to security sector reform issues in UN peacekeeping operations. It noted efforts to develop a UN approach to security sector reform, as it pertained to peacekeeping operations, outlined in the Secretary-General’s report on the subject (see below), and recognized the need for such an approach to be holistic, coherent and better coordinated to ensure comprehensive implementation in line with national strategies and good distribution of resources and activities, and to avoid duplication.

A security sector reform unit should be established in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, and the Secretariat should elaborate guidelines and advise on the implementation of an integrated approach to security sector reform in peacekeeping missions in consultation with Member States. The Committee stressed the importance of lessons learned and best practices in that regard.

The Special Committee believed that security sector reform should take place within a broad framework of the rule of law, contribute to the overall strengthening of UN rule-of-law activities in peacekeeping operations, and not be duplicative. To that end, it underlined the importance of coordination to ensure consistency and coherence.

The Special Committee requested that the work on clarifying the relationship between security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration be completed. It reiterated the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in security sector reform programmes.

**Security Council consideration.** On 12 May [meetings 5889 & 5890], the Security Council held a debate on the maintenance of international peace and security: the Council’s role in supporting security sector reform. It had before it the Secretary-General’s report on the role of the United Nations in supporting this reform [A/62/659-S/2008/39], submitted in response to presidential statement S/PRST/2007/3 [YUN 2007, p. 39] and General Assembly resolution 61/291 [ibid., p. 75]. The report described the evolution of the UN approach to security and the role security sector reform played in contributing to a vision of security based on the rule of law. It reviewed UN system experience in supporting security sector reform and key lessons that had emerged. The report also set out principles that should guide a UN approach to such reform, outlined specific ways in which the Organization might best be placed to support those reforms, and highlighted the centrality of partnerships in that regard.

According to the report, States and societies defined and pursued security according to their particular contexts, histories, cultures and needs; no single model of a security sector existed. Effective and accountable security sectors, however, had a number of common features: a legal and/or constitutional framework providing for the legitimate and accountable use of force in accordance with universally accepted human rights norms and standards, including sanctioning mechanisms for the use of force and setting out the roles and responsibilities of different actors; an institutionalized system of governance and management with mechanisms for the direction and oversight of security, including systems for financial management and review, as well as the protection of human rights; capacities, including structures, personnel, equipment and resources, to provide effective security; mechanisms for interaction among security actors, including modalities for coordination and cooperation among different actors, based on their respective constitutional/legal roles and responsibilities; and a culture of service, which promoted unity, integrity, discipline, impartiality and respect for human rights among security actors and shaped the manner in which they carried out their duties.

The United Nations existed to support the maintenance of international peace and security and to assist Governments and peoples in building a world in which freedom from fear and want was a reality for all. The lessons of the past 60 years had illustrated that those goals were fundamentally intertwined; security, development and human rights were preconditions for sustainable peace. While Member States were the primary providers of security, the UN task was to support national actors in achieving their security, peace and development goals. To that end, the development of effective and accountable security institutions, on the basis of non-discrimination, full respect for human rights, and the rule of law, was essential. The United Nations had been involved for many years in assisting national actors in enhancing or re-establishing security, particularly in the aftermath of conflict. Despite that extensive experience, support for security sector reform remained largely an ad hoc undertak-
ing. The Organization had not elaborated principles and standards to guide its support for national actors in enhancing or re-establishing security. It lacked a system-wide approach for delivering coherent assistance, and its capacity and resources to support national authorities were relatively weak.

A holistic and coherent UN approach to security sector reform was vital to provide a basis for a transparent framework for reform, establish international principles consistent with the UN Charter and human rights laws and standards, and facilitate assistance to national authorities and their international partners engaged in security sector reform. It would also better position the Organization to support national and regional authorities in the facilitation, mobilization and coordination of assistance and resources for security sector reform. Such an approach would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of UN efforts, thereby contributing to the timely withdrawal of UN peacekeeping operations, facilitating early recovery from conflict, and helping build the conditions necessary for sustainable peace and development. It would also ensure that personnel in the field received professional and timely guidance.

Following a review of the lessons learned from the UN system and Member States’ experience in supporting national security sector reform, the report set out core principles to guide a UN approach to such reform. The goal should be to support States and societies in developing effective, inclusive and accountable security institutions so as to contribute to international peace and security, sustainable development and the enjoyment of human rights; reform should be undertaken on the basis of a national decision, a Council mandate and/or an Assembly resolution, the UN Charter and human rights laws and standards; support for reform should be anchored on national ownership and the commitment of involved States and societies; and the UN approach should be made flexible, country-, region- and/or environment- and stakeholder-specific, gender-sensitive, and address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence. In addition, a security sector reform framework and a clearly defined strategy were essential in planning and implementing post-conflict activities. The effectiveness of international support for security sector reform would be shaped by the integrity of motive, the level of accountability, the amount of resources provided, coordination of national and international partners’ efforts, monitoring and regular evaluation, and specific benchmarks to track and maintain progress.

A number of immediate priorities were recommended for the development of a UN approach to security sector reform in support of national actors: developing UN policies and guidelines; strengthening strategic advisory and specialist capacities; strengthening field capacity for security sector reform; assessing gaps and resource requirements; designating lead entities; enhancing the coordination and delivery of support; building partnerships to provide effective support, expertise and adequate resources to national security sector reform processes; and establishing a UN inter-agency security sector reform support unit to deliver on those priorities.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 May [meeting 5890], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2008/14 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls the statement by its President of 20 February 2007 and emphasizes that security sector reform is an essential element of any stabilization and reconstruction process in post-conflict environments. The Council recognizes that the establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is one of the necessary elements for laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development.


The Council commends Slovakia and South Africa for their joint initiative in holding the workshop entitled “International Workshop on Enhancing United Nations Support for Security Sector Reform in Africa: Towards an African Perspective” in Cape Town, South Africa, on 7 and 8 November 2007 and takes note of the letter dated 20 November 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of Slovakia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General. The Council encourages further similar activities.

The Council recognizes that security sector reform is a long-term process and reiterates that it is the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine its national approach and priorities for security sector reform. It should be a nationally owned process that is rooted in the particular needs and conditions of the country in question.

The Council underlines that the strong support of the United Nations and the international community is also critical in strengthening national capacities, thereby reinforcing national ownership, which is crucial for the sustainability of the process.

The Council recognizes the important role that the United Nations has played in supporting national security sector reform efforts and underlines the need for its continued engagement. In this regard, the Council emphasizes the need to develop a holistic and coherent United Nations approach to security sector reform as recommended by the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Member States.

The Council underlines that United Nations support to security sector reform must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law and should contribute to the overall strengthening of the United Nations rule of law activities as well as wider reconstruction and devel-
opment efforts. This will require coordination with all relevant United Nations actors, in particular the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, to ensure coherence of approach.

The Council emphasizes the important role that the Peacebuilding Commission, through its integrated peacebuilding strategies, can play in ensuring continuous international support to countries emerging from conflict. The Council also recognizes the importance of continued close cooperation and partnerships with non-United Nations actors, in particular regional, sub-regional and other intergovernmental organizations, including international financial institutions and bilateral donors, as well as non-governmental organizations.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to include, wherever appropriate, recommendations related to security sector reform in his periodic reports on United Nations operations mandated by the Council.

**Strengthening collective security**

On 19 November [meeting 6017], the Security Council considered the issue of strengthening collective security, having before it a concept paper submitted by Costa Rica [S/2008/697] entitled “Strengthening collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments: the safest road to peace and development”. Outlining the objectives and challenges, the paper stated that the world would not enjoy development without security, nor security without development, and neither without respect for human rights. Unless those goals were simultaneously advanced, none would succeed. Despite their reaffirmation in the 2005 World Summit Outcome contained in Assembly resolution 60/1 [YUN 2005, p. 48], multilateralism, the notion of collective security and the authority of the Security Council as its primary guarantor had seen their foundations eroded. The international system needed to develop a common vision and recommit to multilateralism and the rule of law. Collective security depended on effective cooperation among the United Nations and regional organizations. Regional arrangements and organizations played a pivotal role in promoting and maintaining international peace and security. A constructive and proactive interaction between regional arrangements and the Council should be developed further. An enhanced system of regional arrangements, duly coordinated, mandated and supported by the United Nations—in particular by the Council—could help prevent and address conflict, including its root causes and triggers. The Council’s responsibility and mandate went beyond maintenance of international peace and security, and included the obligation to promote its establishment and maintenance. Current developments required that consensus on major threats should be built and translated into concrete action, including addressing the root causes of those challenges.

The Council President expressed the view that members had an obligation to reflect upon the role entrusted to the Council to promote international peace and security, and the current meeting provided an opportunity to consider the instruments that could be used to achieve the Charter objectives, including the strengthening of both regional and global multilateral mechanisms and arms control and regulation. The dialogue should also focus on action that would lead to a more rational use of resources, without undermining security, to ensure greater development. It was a particularly opportune moment, as arms races were developing around the world and crises, such as the food, environmental, energy and economic crises, were impeding efforts to improve the lives of those condemned to poverty, ignorance and ill-health. The time had come to recognize the link between the squandering of resources on arms and the need for those resources to advance to greater levels of human development.

Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, in addressing the Council, said that achieving a sense of collective security was a vital step towards preventing conflict. The strengthening of collective security could build trust between States and pave the way for agreements and cooperation in other fields, steadily tying countries together in shared interests, better understanding and mutual support. No serious discussion on the limitation or elimination of armaments could avoid the topic of improving transparency. Predictable and transparent State behaviour could build confidence and thereby promote collective security. He welcomed the Council’s recognition that progress in disarmament and the regulation of armaments could make important contributions to strengthening international security.

On 19 November, the Security Council, in presidential statement S/PRST/2008/43 (see p. 592), stressed the vital importance of an effective multilateral system for better addressing the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting the world and achieving progress in peace and security, development and human rights—the pillars of the UN system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. It expressed its support for multilateralism as one of the most important means for resolving security concerns in accordance with international law.

**Mediation and settlement of disputes**

On 23 September [meeting 5979], the Security Council, as part of its consideration on the maintenance of international peace and security, discussed the mediation and settlement of disputes. The Council extended
an invitation, under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure, to former Special Adviser Lakhdar Brahimi to attend the meeting.

The Council had before it a concept paper [S/2008/590] submitted by Burkina Faso, which stated that the settlement of disputes by peaceful means had always been a major concern of the international community. Over time, the increasingly frequent recourse to mediation, conducted by actors with widely varying backgrounds, had made it one of the principal alternatives for the settlement of contemporary conflicts. With over a half century of experience, the United Nations had established effective mechanisms for the prevention and settlement of conflicts through mediation. At the subregional and regional levels, initiatives, mechanisms and institutions were also in place for the governance of the actions of organizations and States in mediation and other peaceful dispute settlement methods. Mediation had a greater likelihood of success at those levels, as the parties to the dispute and the mediator shared the same geographical, historical, economic, social, cultural and demographic background. Therefore, the international community, including the United Nations, should provide support for local processes, especially financial and logistical support. Several non-State structures also offered expertise in mediation and settlement of conflicts. However, while the several actors, mechanisms, structures and activities enriched the conduct of mediation, they could cause complications or even stall the mediation owing to lack of coordination.

In addition to promoting mediation as a method of dispute settlement, the high-level meeting of the Council aimed to: evaluate UN activities and mechanisms in mediation and review the implementation of resolution 1625(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 155] on conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, as well as the effectiveness of other relevant Council resolutions and declarations; examine ways to make UN mediation more effective at the operational and institutional levels; evaluate the functioning and contribution to conflict resolution of subregional and regional mediation mechanisms, and make proposals for enhancing their effectiveness; explore ways to improve the coordination of mediation activities, such as the appointment of joint mediators; provide a forum for exchanging experiences in mediation among key figures, civil society, and specialized centres; and assess the influence of sociocultural factors and ownership of the process. The discussions could also focus on the role, especially of the Council and the Secretary-General, in conducting mediation, and how it could be enhanced; the contribution of regional and subregional organizations; support for regional mediation initiatives conducted by Member States and regional and subregional bodies; and the role of women and civil society in the mediation process.

During the debate, the Council President said that mediation required confidence and coordination between the mediator, the parties to the conflict, local actors and all partners. In crisis mediation, three essential elements should be highlighted: ownership by the major parties of the process to resolve the crisis; a final document satisfying each protagonist and providing answers to fundamental questions regarding the onset of the crisis, while remaining even-handed; and appropriate follow-up mechanisms to allow the parties to overcome obstacles and to strengthen dialogue and confidence.

The Secretary-General, addressing the Council, said that pursuant to the 2005 World Summit Outcome contained in General Assembly resolution 60/1 [YUN 2005, p. 48], a small Mediation Support Unit (msu) had been established in the Department of Political Affairs to provide operational support to peace processes and be a repository of knowledge for mediators. During 2008, msu established a standby team of mediation experts that could be deployed anywhere in the world in a matter of days. In the first half of the year, msu provided support to some 15 peace processes, as well as to the Southern Africa Development Community, the Economic Community of Central African States and the African Union to strengthen their mediation capacities. However, its funding in the regular budget was meagre, with no funds for programme activities. The Secretary-General urged the Council to ensure that mediation efforts had the requisite resources. As past experience suggested that an effective mediation effort throughout the conflict cycle was necessary for effective peacekeeping and peacebuilding, it was critical that the Council provide the same support to enhance the structures, processes, tools and resources required for mediation as for peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

Mr. Brahimi told the Council that a mediator should include in the peace process all parties to the conflict. He or she should never act to placate his or her own ego; rather, the person should put the concerns and aspirations of all the people of the country concerned at the forefront. In the case of Afghanistan, the interests of the Afghan people should over-ride those of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, neighbours and any other country. However, there should be no misunderstanding: mediation that was inclusive and involved dialogue with all parties did not mean that any offence, by anyone, should be condoned or ignored. The mediators’ hand would be significantly strengthened when the principles and approaches they adhered to in conducting the mediation were seen to be supported by all Council and UN Members as a whole. That meant, in particular, that there had to be only one channel of communication with the parties. The mediator, particularly a UN mediator, needed all the help pos-
possible, especially from the Council. That help should begin with giving the mediator the time and space needed to work out solutions, overcome prejudices and reconcile competing narratives of the conflict. It meant resisting pressure to initiate competing mediating efforts and standing firm against predetermined or hastily conducted agreements that were imposed from outside or did not address the core issues. The credibility of the United Nations and the world’s faith in its relevance suffered greatly when the mediation of conflicts was left unattended for long periods or ignored altogether, as well as when the Council was perceived to be more concerned about the suffering of some than others, selective in the enforcement of its resolutions, or employing double standards. The damage to that credibility on some issues would affect its mediation efforts everywhere. Mr. Brahimi concluded that the Organization’s universality, impartiality and consistent adherence to the principles enshrined in its Charter were the most powerful weapons in a UN mediator’s arsenal. If the Organization equipped and supported its mediators well, they would be more likely to provide the help the victims of war demanded and achieve the peace the Council sought.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 23 September [meeting 5979], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2008/36 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirms its commitment to the pacific settlement of disputes, including through mediation, in conformity with the Charter, in particular Chapter VI thereof. The Council recalls all its relevant previous statements and resolutions.

The Council underlines the importance of mediation as a means of pacific settlement of disputes and encourages the further use of this mechanism in the settlement of disputes. The Council reaffirms the crucial role of the United Nations in this regard.

The Council affirms that, as the organ with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, it has a responsibility to promote and support mediation as an important means for the pacific settlement of disputes.

The Council emphasizes the importance of the actions undertaken by the Secretary-General, in using his good offices and his representatives and special envoys, and United Nations mediators in promoting mediation and in the pacific settlement of disputes. The Council takes note of the establishment of the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, which provides expertise for supporting the mediation efforts of the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that mediation processes conducted by or under the auspices of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles of the Organization and that mediators are experienced, impartial, have a good knowledge of all the stakeholders, facts and circumstances of any dispute to which they have been assigned, and are provided with the necessary support and flexibility to approach mediation according to the specificities of the disputes; to this end, the Council encourages the Secretary-General to consider ways to strengthen the capabilities of the Secretariat.

The Council notes the important contribution of regional and subregional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders to the pacific settlement of disputes, in particular through mediation, and commends them for their efforts. The Council is resolved to strengthen United Nations support to such mediation efforts through improved cooperation, in particular in Africa; the Council encourages other bilateral and multilateral partners to do likewise.

The Council underlines the importance of engaging the potential and the existing capacities and capabilities of regional and subregional organizations in mediation efforts, and welcomes the promotion of regional approaches to the pacific settlement of disputes.

The Council notes that women have an important role to play in the settlement of disputes, stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and calls upon the Secretary-General and the heads of regional and subregional organizations to take into account the gender aspect during the selection of mediators, as well as the approach and perspective that women can render in mediation processes.

The Council highlights the importance of considering peacebuilding and recovery requirements in the mediation process to help to build the foundations for sustainable peace, and stresses that the Peacebuilding Commission has a role to play in the promotion of mediation.

The Council emphasizes the need to ensure the coherence of mediation processes by or under the auspices of the United Nations, through the improved coordination of efforts with other actors, including regional and subregional organizations, in order to enhance the effectiveness of international efforts.

The Council also stresses that no mediation initiative can be viable without the ownership and full involvement of all relevant parties to the dispute throughout the process. The Council reaffirms that conflict prevention and the pacific settlement of disputes should be at the core of mediation efforts.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to submit, within six months of the adoption of the present statement, a report on mediation and its support activities which takes into account experiences of the United Nations and other key actors and makes recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations mediation.

Natural resources and conflict

On 25 July [A/63/191], Belgium requested that the item entitled “Natural resources and conflict” be
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included in the agenda item on the maintenance of international peace and security by the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. Belgium stated that the link between natural resources and conflict was well-documented both at the conceptual level and in the context of specific conflict situations. It referred to the 2007 thematic debate on the issue by the Security Council [YUN 2007, p. 41], and the similar discussion by the Working Group on Lessons Learned of the Peacebuilding Commission on 8 May 2008 [A/63/92-S/2008/417]. Belgium noted that the policy debate on the issue had long been focused on particular countries or narrowed down to specific dimensions. An approach to better understand the different aspects of the issue was to make a distinction between the successive phases of a (potential) conflict. Belgium was convinced that the question of natural resources and conflict was multifaceted and deserved a broad debate. In that regard, the General Assembly offered an inclusive and comprehensive forum for such a debate, the aim of which would be to: stimulate further reflection on how the exploitation of natural resources could play a role in certain conflicts, and on how to ensure that natural resources became a source of development; better understand what the international community could do to assist Governments in that area, and what the responsibilities of the various concerned actors were, including the private sector and regional organizations; and take stock of ongoing initiatives and explore how their effectiveness could be strengthened.

In September [A/63/250], the Assembly’s General Committee decided to postpone to a later date its consideration of the question of the inclusion of the item entitled “Natural resources and conflict” in the Assembly’s draft agenda.

**Conflict prevention**

The General Assembly, by decision 62/554 of 15 September, deferred consideration of the item entitled “Prevention of armed conflict” and decided to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-third (2008) session. On 24 December, the Assembly, by decision 63/552, decided that the item “Prevention of armed conflict” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-third (2009) session.

**Review Summit on armed violence and development.** In a 16 October letter [A/63/494], Switzerland transmitted to the Secretary-General the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development adopted in June 2006 and the Summit Statement adopted at the Review Summit of the Declaration (Geneva, 12 September 2008). The Declaration acknowledged that armed violence and conflict impeded realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 51] and that conflict prevention, conflict resolution, violence reduction, human rights, good governance, and peacebuilding were key steps towards reducing poverty, promoting economic growth and improving people’s lives.

On 17 November, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/23 (see p. 635), which took note of the Declaration and the resolve expressed in the Summit Statement to develop goals, targets and measurable indicators on armed violence and development as a complement to the MDGs.

**Peacekeeping and prevention of armed conflict**

**Parliamentary hearing.** The 2008 Parliamentary Hearing (New York, 20–21 November) [A/63/729] considered “Towards effective peacekeeping and the prevention of conflict: Delivering on our commitments”. The hearing, attended by some 200 parliamentarians from over 60 countries, was conducted in four sessions on the responsibility to protect (Session I), sexual violence against women and children in conflict (Session II), integrating a human security approach into the work of the United Nations (Session III) and major challenges facing UN peacekeeping operations (Session IV). In resolution 63/24 of 18 November (see p. 1536), the General Assembly requested its President to submit a summary of the Hearing to its next session.

**Implementation of Security Council resolution 1625(2005)**

In response to Security Council presidential statement S/PRST/2007/31 [YUN 2007, p. 45], the Secretary-General submitted a January report [S/2008/18] on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1625(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 155] on conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. The report examined the Council’s role in prevention, including preventive initiatives in Africa and more effective use of sanctions, as well as that of the Secretary-General through such measures as good offices, information-sharing regarding potential conflicts, mediation support and preventive field presence. It also reviewed national preventive capacity-building, including electoral assistance and building capacities for conflict management, building the capacity of regional organizations, and further developing system coherence and coordination on prevention.

The Secretary-General stated that, in recognition of its multidimensional nature, the United Nations was developing increasingly multifaceted approaches to conflict prevention, drawing on the cooperation of different actors. That comprehensive approach
included structural prevention to address the root causes of conflict; operational prevention to ensure the effectiveness of early warning mechanisms, mediation, humanitarian access and response, the protection of civilians, and targeted sanctions in the face of immediate crises; and systemic prevention to prevent conflicts from spilling over into other States. The recognition that those different approaches should be linked so as to create a comprehensive conflict-prevention strategy had allowed for a more holistic and systemized approach to the maintenance of international peace and security and international collective security mechanisms. The Council’s endorsement of the comprehensive approach to prevention was reflected in its focused activities in Africa, which was indicative of its intention to play a more proactive role in addressing conflict there. As for the more effective use of sanctions, the Secretary-General stated that greater attention should be paid to implementing the recommendations of arms embargo monitoring groups and holding violators responsible.

It was also imperative that the Council broaden its responses and adopt a more comprehensive approach, including the development of norms and frameworks for ensuring that the activities of the business sector did not exacerbate or fuel conflicts. In that regard, the UN system had been working with private sector partners through the Global Compact [YUN 2000, p. 989] to promote corporate social responsibility. The Compact had developed instruments such as a conflict impact assessment and a risk-management tool to enable companies to measure their impact on the environment and make the requisite positive changes. The Council played a role in advancing that agenda, but more needed to be done to strengthen the international regulatory framework and encourage States to forcefully and constructively promote conflict-sensitive practices in their business sectors. The hardware used in conflict, including guns, tanks and landmines, was cheaply produced and widely sold, making it a hazard to peace. General Assembly recommendations aimed at reducing trafficking in small arms and light weapons had been unevenly and inadequately implemented. The Secretary-General called on Member States to renew their commitment in that regard.

Regarding his role in conflict prevention, the Secretary-General said that he relied on the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), as the operational arm of his mission of good offices, to keep him informed of potential conflict situations and provide strategies to keep tensions from escalating. He had submitted proposals to the Assembly for strengthening DPA, including its regional coverage, through the establishment of regional offices, and he suggested a Regional Office for the Great Lakes and Central Africa. He also proposed enhancing DPA’s policy-planning capacity and mediation support function to assist Member States in responding to cross-cutting global issues, such as transnational organized crime networks, corruption and terrorism.

The Council and the Assembly continued to take parallel and supportive action for conflict prevention, but mechanisms needed to be enhanced to ensure regular, systematic briefings of the Council by the Secretariat on disputes or situations likely to endanger international peace and security. The oversight role of the Economic and Social Council was relevant to system coordination in matters of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The Security Council should continue to engage the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council in facilitating the flow of information to it from UN funds, programmes and agencies.

The Secretary-General concluded that the United Nations was making progress in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, including through a better-defined role for the Council. Those efforts had made the UN preventive system more attentive to early signs of rising tensions of potential conflict and more effective at transmitting that information to the Council. However, the gap between the rhetoric and the employment of effective preventive mechanisms had to be closed in order to operationalize prevention throughout the UN system, provide an adaptive system to respond to requests from Member States and regional organizations, support preventive efforts of the Assembly and the Council, and fulfil Member States’ preventive mandates.

To enhance its preventive action capacity, the Secretary-General called on the Council to dispatch timely missions to assess situations in the field; increase use of the Arria Formula (Security Council informal consultative arrangement) or similar arrangements for informal discussions; maintain its focus on addressing cross-border threats to peace and security, notably the illicit trade in small arms and drugs and human trafficking; ensure the constructive use of sanctions and use reports of experts to motivate parties to resolve conflicts without violence; broaden the use of sanctions to non-state actors, and in that regard continue its 2007 debate on natural resources and conflict [YUN 2007, p. 41]; and develop a more structured relationship with the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council, as called for in their 2007 joint communiqué [ibid., p. 110].

The Secretary-General called upon Member States to: strengthen UN preventive diplomacy and mediation support capacities, in particular, initiatives to strengthen DPA, including through expansion of regional field presences in Africa; combat cross-border and transnational threats to stability, including efforts to...
control the arms trade; and consider the deployment of integrated offices charged with building national capacities for conflict prevention in the aftermath of the drawdown of peacekeeping operations. Member States and the international community were urged to continue to address gender-based violence. Member States should enhance support for the Peacebuilding Commission to ensure that it had the resources to assist all countries eligible to be on its agenda. African States and the international community should fully cooperate in developing the capacities of African regional and subregional organizations to deploy civilian and military assets quickly when needed, including the development of the AU African Standby Force.

Among his proposals, the Secretary-General mentioned: strengthening the Secretariat’s capacity to analyse conflict situations and develop recommendations; enhancing the UN regional field presence in support of prevention, particularly in Africa; providing the Council with regular reports and analyses of developments in regions of potential armed conflict, particularly in Africa; instructing the UN system to build on current collaborations, strengthen frameworks and deploy expertise on prevention; enhancing UN cooperation and coordination with regional organizations; presenting specific proposals on regional coordination in a report as requested by the Council in presidential statement S/PRST/2007/7 [ibid., p. 109]; ensuring that the UN system worked closely with the African Peace and Security Architecture, including the Panel of the Wise, and help build long-term AU capacity; supporting UN system efforts to build national and regional capacity, notably in Africa, to address the root causes of conflict, while strengthening institutions that provided channels for peaceful conflict resolution; strengthening the UN ability to promote preventive diplomacy and mediation capability; and strengthening the Secretariat’s ability to promote fairness and transparency in electoral processes and other means of supporting the development of post-conflict institutions.

The Council, in resolution 1809(2008) of 16 April (see p. 109), encouraged the continuing involvement of regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through conflict prevention, confidence-building and mediation efforts. It expressed its determination to strengthen and enhance cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly the AU, in conflict prevention, resolution and management, including good offices, mediation support, effective use of sanctions, electoral assistance and preventive field presence, and in the case of Africa, focusing on support to the AU Panel of the Wise, among others.

United Nations and regional organizations

On 16 April [meeting 5868], the Security Council, during consideration of peace and security in Africa, held a debate on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the AU, in the maintenance of international peace and security. It had before it a concept paper by South Africa [S/2008/229] and an April report [S/2008/186] by the Secretary-General on the subject, as requested by the Council in presidential statement S/PRST/2007/7 [YUN 2007, p. 109].

The Secretary-General’s report highlighted the issues that defined the nature of the collaborative partnership in international peace and security between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the AU; the division of responsibilities under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter on regional arrangements; the multifaceted nature and levels of cooperation with regional organizations; and the challenges and opportunities created by such partnerships. According to the report, the need for greater involvement by regional organizations with the United Nations in conflict prevention, management and resolution in all regions had been recognized. Enhancing that relationship under Chapter VIII should be based on a clearer definition of the basis and processes of such cooperation, as well as understanding and appreciating how such partnerships should be framed to avoid misunderstanding and misperception of their meaning and scope. The challenge was finding ways to replace the current approach with more planned, consistent and reliable arrangements, including sustainable, flexible and predictable funding for long-term planning, deployment and sustainment of a peacekeeping operation undertaken by a regional organization and authorized by the Council.

The Secretary-General made a number of recommendations for addressing common security challenges and for expanding dialogue and cooperation between the UN Security Council and regional organizations, in particular the AU Peace and Security Council. He recommended that the UN Security Council define the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of peace and security, in particular the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts; distinguish between regional organizations for Chapter VIII activities and all other regional organizations’ activities, and develop a structure for identifying regional security mechanisms; continue the desk-to-desk dialogues on conflict prevention between the United Nations and regional organizations on cross-cutting issues and extend such a mechanism to the AU; and increase consultations among regional organizations. The United Nations should improve and better coordinate African peacekeeping training initiatives,
including through the development of regional centres for military and civilian aspects of conflict prevention and peace support, and the enhancement of the capacity of the AU and subregional organizations in the financial and administrative management of peacekeeping operations. To enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations undertaking peacekeeping under a UN mandate, an AU-UN panel would be set up within three months to make recommendations on support for regional organizations’ peacekeeping operations.

In the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the United Nations and intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations should: intensify coordination and cooperation in strengthening national, regional and international capacities in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy contained in Assembly resolution 60/288 [YUN 2006, p. 66]; and encourage regional and subregional organizations, in particular the AU, to enhance exchange of information and pursue joint planning and implementation of regional and subregional initiatives to address the issue of small arms and light weapons. On conflict prevention and mediation, the Secretary-General recalled his recommendation to strengthen DPA (see p. 47). With regard to peacbuilding support and post-conflict reconstruction, he recommended that the United Nations establish a standing collaborative working group to develop an agenda of consultations on linking UN peacebuilding processes and the Peacebuilding Commission with the work of regional organizations; and ensure, during the peacekeeping phase, that the foundations were laid for sustainable post-conflict peacbuilding, with a focus on strengthening the national reconciliation process and managing the economy. In the area of human rights, the Secretary-General recommended continuing support for establishing human rights components in peacekeeping and political missions, and implementing the provisions of Assembly resolution 61/296 [YUN 2007, p. 304] calling on the United Nations to assist in developing a strategy and policies to support the AU. On humanitarian action, he recommended the incorporation of protection of civilians in armed conflict through the development of an AU policy framework and guidance, and enhancing AU early warning methodology and systems through the development of a multirisk early warning tool.

The Council, in resolution 1809(2008) of 16 April (see p. 109), recognizing the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations undertaking United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations, welcomed the Secretary-General’s proposal to set up within three months an AU-UN panel to consider ways of supporting such peacekeeping operations and lessons learned.

**Conflict diamonds**

**Kimberley Process.** At its 2008 session, the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process (New Delhi, India, 3–6 November) reviewed the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), established in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 55] to stop the trade in conflict diamonds from fuelling armed conflict, protect the legitimate diamond industry and ensure implementation of UN resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/11 [YUN 2007, p. 48], India transmitted to the Secretary-General the report of the plenary meeting on behalf of the Chair of the Kimberley Process [A/63/560].

The plenary welcomed Mexico as a KPCS participant. In 2008, Congo resumed trade in rough diamonds, after having been readmitted to KPCS in 2007. As at 6 November 2008, the total number of KPCS participants stood at 49, representing 75 countries. Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gabon, Kuwait, Mali, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar and Swaziland had expressed interest in joining the Kimberley Process, while Burkina Faso and Panama confirmed their intention to do so. Venezuela voluntarily separated from the Kimberley Process for two years and ceased certifying diamonds for export. It retained the right to participate in Kimberley Process meetings and working groups, and the obligation to report on rough diamond production during that period. KPCS would continue to report on Venezuela’s compliance with its minimum standards, and to support Venezuela in developing a plan to implement those standards and to fully reintegrate in KPCS.

Peer review visits were undertaken to five diamond producing and trading centres (Central African Republic, Guinea, Israel, Liberia, United Arab Emirates). The situation in Côte d’Ivoire continued to be monitored, and a joint UN-Kimberley Process mission in April confirmed the continued production of diamonds, particularly at the Bobi-Seguela site, and that Ivorian diamonds seemed to be effectively controlled and “taxed” by elements of the rebel movement Forces nouvelles. The Security Council, in resolution 1842(2008) of 29 October (see p. 194), renewed until 31 October 2009 the measures preventing importation by any State of rough diamonds from Côte d’Ivoire. The Kimberley Process would continue to pursue dialogue with Ivorian authorities regarding preparations for a certification scheme. The Kimberley Process and Ghana continued their constructive engagement. An update review mission concluded that Ghana had made significant progress in addressing weaknesses in internal controls, particularly with regard to the registration of miners and the collection of reliable production statistics. The Kimberley Process
continued to mobilize technical assistance to assist Ghana in registering artisanal miners and providing accurate assessment of diamond production. It was also finalizing the footprinting (size frequency distribution diagram) exercise in respect of West African diamond-producing participants. Production footprints had been prepared for Côte d’Ivoire, Togo and Zimbabwe. Statistical protocols were developed to allow comparison of the export footprints with the participants’ production footprint. Information technology linkage between participants to improve the quality of KPCS data was also initiated.

KPCS provided technical assistance and funding to develop participants’ capacities to implement the Scheme. Kimberley Process participants, industry and civil society supported projects in Angola, the Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania. Funding was also received for specific activities, such as statistical training, satellite monitoring, and the participation of observers in peer review visits. KPCS developed guidelines that recommended interim measures in cases of serious non-compliance with its minimum requirements, listing the guiding principles for determining serious non-compliance and an indicative list of escalating measures, such as targeted statistical analysis, enhanced monitoring and additional verification measures, mobilization of technical assistance, and suspension of export and import operations. Rules and criteria for the selection of the Kimberley Process Vice-Chair, rules and procedures for readmission of former participants, and guiding principles on participation of guests of the Chair in the Kimberley Process were also developed. The Process was working on greater cooperation on implementation and enforcement of issues such as fake certificates, the handling of suspicious shipments, and infringements of KPCS.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/134 [draft: A/63/L.52 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 11].

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

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing, therefore, that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Recalling that the elimination of illicit diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process,

Acknowledging that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for achieving poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in producing countries,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of many of the producing, exporting and importing States, especially developing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459(2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and would help to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process are useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Welcoming also the decision of forty-nine Kimberley Process Participants, representing seventy-five countries, including the twenty-seven members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the consensual outcomes of the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in New Delhi from 3 to 6 November 2008,

Welcoming the important contributions made and that continue to be made by civil society and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council which represents all aspects of the diamond industry, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

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

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

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

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have requisite legal, financial, political, economic and social resources, and that all Participants have to cooperate effectively in implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, to ensure the effective implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

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

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

5. Takes note of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to resolution 62/11, and congratulates the participating Governments, the regional economic integration organization, the diamond industry and civil society organizations involved in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

6. Acknowledges the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2008 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Chair to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by both Governments and civil society in the Certification Scheme, foster a sense of ownership by Participants, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Certification Scheme to respond to emerging challenges;

7. Stresses that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, and encourages all Member States to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings;

8. Welcomes the admission in 2008 of Mexico to the Kimberley Process and the resumption of trade in rough diamonds by the Congo, and recognizes the increased involvement of civil society organizations, in particular those from producer countries, in the Process;

9. Also welcomes the guidelines endorsed by the New Delhi plenary meeting that recommend interim measures for serious non-compliance with Kimberley Process minimum requirements, set out the guiding principles for determination of serious non-compliance and include an indicative list of escalating measures, namely, targeted statistical analysis, enhanced monitoring and additional verification measures, mobilization of technical assistance, and suspension and resumption of export and import operations;

10. Notes with satisfaction that, in line with paragraph 14 of its resolution 62/11, a visit led by the representative of the Chair of the Kimberley Process was undertaken to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which helped to provide a better understanding of the challenges being experienced by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the diamond mining sector and led to the recommendation that the Process should continue to engage with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which has voluntarily separated from the
Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for a period of two years, and to assist and support the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in developing a plan of action to implement the minimum standards of the Certification Scheme and fully reintegrate into the Scheme;

11. Notes with appreciation the willingness of the Kimberley Process to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and welcomes the recommendations in this regard of the Process plenary meeting held in New Delhi, which include a provision that such Participants would, if the Participation Committee so determined, retain membership and participate in the Process activities, and continue to be subject to all other obligations under the Certification Scheme;

12. Notes with satisfaction the systematization of the work of the Kimberley Process with respect to continuing to develop transparent and uniform rules and procedures, introducing a mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Process, and adoption by the New Delhi plenary meeting of the rules and criteria for selection of the Vice-Chair of the Process, rules and procedures for readmission of a former Process Participant, and guiding principles on participation of the guests of the Process Chair in the Process;

13. Notes with appreciation the cooperation of the Kimberley Process with the United Nations on the issue of diamonds from Côte d’Ivoire, by participating in a joint United Nations-Kimberley Process field mission to Côte d’Ivoire and by pursuing the monitoring of diamond activity in Côte d’Ivoire, welcomes plans by Côte d’Ivoire to re-establish Government control over diamond mining and trade, and encourages continued cooperation between the Process and the United Nations in tackling this issue, with the ultimate objective of meeting the preconditions for the lifting of United Nations sanctions on the trading of rough diamonds from Côte d’Ivoire;

14. Acknowledges the progress made by Ghana in 2008 in strengthening its internal controls in follow-up to the administrative decision on Ghana adopted by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in Gaborone from 6 to 9 November 2006, and agrees that continued implementation of the action plan by Ghana would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Process;

15. Notes with satisfaction the publication for the first time of Kimberley Process rough diamond trade and production sub-annual data for 2004 to 2007, welcomes the progress made towards the collection and submission of complete and accurate statistical reports on the production of and trade in rough diamonds, and encourages all of the Process Participants to continue to enhance the quality of data, and to respond promptly to Process analyses of these data;

16. Also notes with satisfaction the development, in line with paragraph 7 of its resolution 60/182 and paragraph 7 of its resolution 61/28, of “footprints”, size-frequency distribution diagrams, that characterize the diamond production of Côte d’Ivoire, the Marange diamond field in Zimbabwe and Togo and the continued work undertaken for Ghana, and the development of statistical protocols to allow comparison of the export footprints with the established production footprint of the Participants;

17. Notes with appreciation the publication of a consolidated matrix of inventories of Participants engaged in artisanal alluvial diamond production and the continued efforts to follow up on the effective implementation of the Moscow declaration on improving internal controls over alluvial diamond production;

18. Stresses the importance of implementing the declaration on internal controls in diamond trading and manufacturing centres endorsed by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in Brussels from 5 to 8 November 2007, and encourages all such centres to carry out effective enforcement measures, including those set out in the guidance on internal controls for Participants engaged in trading and manufacturing, as part of their own internal controls for ensuring adequate Government oversight over the trade in rough diamonds;

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

20. Acknowledges with great appreciation the important contribution that India, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2008, has made to the efforts to curb the trade in conflict diamonds, and takes note that the Process has selected Namibia as Chair and Israel as Vice-Chair of the Process for 2009;

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

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

**Strengthening the Department of Political Affairs in conflict prevention**

**Report of Secretary-General.** The Secretary-General, in a report [A/62/521 & Corr.1] on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009 under sections 1, 3, 28D and 35, related to the strengthening of DPA, stated that preventive diplomacy was a core function of the United Nations and was central to its role. The relevance of the Organization would be judged by how well that central role was performed. Within the United Nations, DPA had primary responsibility for carrying out preventive diplomacy and supporting the Secretary-General’s good offices function. While there was strong demand to step up and systematize the Organization’s work on prevention, prospects for success were slim unless the chronic under-resourcing of that strategic part of the Secretariat was redressed. The current level of resources for DPA constrained the Organization’s ability to deliver on its mandates. The Secretary-General proposed to reconfigure the current structure to make DPA more field-oriented. The unsustainable trend for DPA towards increased responsibilities without an increase in human or financial
resources had to be reversed. The growing demand for conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and the Secretary-General’s good offices, as well as the demands on the Department for political advice and a coordinating political role, had overstretched the Department’s staff and leadership. Strengthening DPA to better support a more proactive United Nations in conflict prevention would require both additional resources and new ways of working when confronting potential conflict situations, particularly through greater mobility and presence in the field. It would also require improved management and oversight mechanisms.

The Secretary-General proposed: building the capability of the Department’s regional Divisions to allow sufficient capacity for improved monitoring and analysis, effective policy formulation, rapid dispatch of assets to support early resolution of conflicts and support for the Secretary-General’s good offices; strengthening its policy-planning capacity and mediation support function through the establishment of a Policy, Partnerships and Mediation Support Division to assist Member States on cross-cutting global issues such as transnational organized crime, corruption, democracy and terrorism; increasing the resources of the Electoral Assistance Division to cope with the demand for its services, and the increasing number and complexity of requests for technical assistance and advice; and supporting the Security Council with its expanding workload, as well as certain General Assembly committees, by providing for some Office of Internal Oversight Services positions to support the increased demands placed on the sanctions committees, under the Security Council Affairs Division.

Other proposals included the establishment of a network of regional offices to assist Member States and regional organizations with their preventive diplomacy efforts, providing a more agile platform to support preventive diplomacy by the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General, strengthening relations with regional organizations, building local capacity and encouraging regional approaches to conflict prevention. Each office would work closely with UN missions, agencies and programmes, providing a localized hub for conflict prevention activities by the UN system and other regional partners. They would replace single country political missions, which had a more limited focus. Management, executive and oversight functions needed to be tightened by refocusing the work of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General and by reinforcing the capabilities of the Department’s Executive Office.

The Secretary-General requested the Assembly to approve the establishment of 96 new posts and the reclassification of one post from D-1 to D-2 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, for the United Nations Liaison Office at Addis Ababa; and appropriate a total amount of $21,036,100, comprising $439,200 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, $14,276,100 under section 3, Political affairs, $4,184,700 under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, and $2,136,100 under section 35, Staff assessment, offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009.

Report of ACABQ. In January [A/62/7/Add. 32], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended approval of the establishment of 56 additional posts, including the reclassification of four posts (one D-1 to D-2, one P-5 to D-1, one P-3 to P-4 and one P-2 to P-3) under section 3; the establishment of four additional posts, including the reclassification of one post from D-1 to D-2 under section 1, for the United Nations Liaison Office at Addis Ababa; and a reduction of $8,142,700 from the additional estimate of $21,036,100 proposed by the Secretary-General.

Communications. On 7 March [A/C.5/62/24], Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter sent to the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs conveying the views of the Joint Coordination Committee (Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement) on the Secretary-General’s proposals for strengthening DPA. The Committee, while supporting some elements of the proposals, had important concerns. It was disappointed that the views, priorities and role of developing countries, including their contribution to conflict prevention and resolution, were not adequately reflected in the report. They had particular concerns regarding the establishment and nature of the proposed regional offices, stressing that those offices could only be established with the full support and consent of the host country and all Member States concerned, and with an appropriate mandate by the Assembly. A regional office could not have an extraterritorial mandate (i.e. a mandate extending beyond the countries of that region), and there was no uniform formula for the establishment of the regional offices. The Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a corrigendum to the report, reflecting the comments and concerns of the Member States.

On 12 March [A/C.5/62/25], the Secretary-General conveyed the clarifications to those concerns as provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, which he endorsed. Additional questions raised could be addressed through the Fifth Committee, and the Secretariat would provide information as required.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 24 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/63/648/Add.2], adopted resolution 63/261 without vote [agenda item 118].

Strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 62/236 of 22 December 2007,
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, section 3, Political affairs, section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 35, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009, relating to the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs, the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the management of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs, the letter dated 7 March 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the letter dated 12 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba to the United Nations and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,
Reaffirming its rules of procedure,
Recalling the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,
Stressing the intergovernmental, multilateral and international character of the United Nations,
Reaffirming the role of the General Assembly and its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, within their respective mandates, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation,
Recognizing that the prevention of armed conflict and the peaceful settlement of disputes are central to the mandate of the United Nations,
Recognizing also that preventive diplomacy is a core function of the United Nations and is central to the role of the Secretary-General and that the Department of Political Affairs has primary responsibility for carrying out preventive diplomacy and supporting the good offices function of the Secretary-General,
Reaffirming further the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in the mediation of disputes,
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Stresses that any activity by the Department of Political Affairs related to preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution must be carried out in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States;
3. Also stresses that improvement in the capacity of the United Nations to prevent and resolve conflicts is a better investment than dealing with the cost of armed conflict and its aftermath;
4. Recognizes the important role women play in the area of preventive diplomacy;
5. Also recognizes that the root causes of armed conflict are multidimensional in nature, thus requiring a comprehensive and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflict;
6. Notes that the objective of strengthening and rationalizing the Department of Political Affairs, including its supportive role regarding preventive diplomacy and resolution of conflict, is to improve the Department’s effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its mandate;
7. Reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;
8. Also reaffirms its role in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;
9. Further reaffirms its role with regard to the structure of the Secretariat, and stresses that proposals to amend the overall departmental structure, as well as the format of the programme budget and the biennial programme plan, are subject to its review and prior approval;
10. Reaffirms its resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that in presenting the programme budget, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are included to measure achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States;
11. Requests the Secretary-General to explore potential synergies and complementarities among special political missions, where possible, in order to avoid duplication and overlap, bearing in mind the autonomous nature of each legislative mandate;
12. Underlines the continued importance of the role of the Secretary-General in ensuring, when appointing his special representatives and envoys, the highest standards of integrity, competency, impartiality and professionalism;
13. Emphasizes the sensitivity of the mandates of special political missions, and in this regard recalls Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations;
14. Recalls that the Secretary-General may nominate special representatives and envoys, and in this respect notes the intention of the Secretary-General to continuously consult with Member States concerned on these matters;
15. Also recalls the role of the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter;
16. Reiterates that the delegation of authority on the part of the Secretary-General should be in order to facilitate the better management of the Organization, but stresses that the overall responsibility for management of
the Organization rests with the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer;

17. Also reiterates the importance of strengthened accountability in the Organization and of ensuring greater accountability of the Secretary-General to Member States, inter alia, for the effective and efficient implementation of legislative mandates and the use of human and financial resources;

18. Recalls the letter dated 7 March 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the letter dated 12 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba to the United Nations, stresses the strong concerns of some Member States contained therein, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that there is sufficient knowledge within the Department of Political Affairs of the political situation in all regions and to abide strictly by the principles enshrined in the Charter;

19. Requests the Secretary-General, in this regard, to ensure that, in the submission of future budget documents, the narrative parts are based solely on factual information;

20. Stresses the importance of the role of the Department of Political Affairs in providing appropriate political guidance in the context of its involvement in United Nations trust funds to which it provides such guidance, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

21. 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;

22. Recalls section V, paragraph 8, of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, takes note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and stresses the importance of its full implementation;

23. Emphasizes the importance of the integration of effort, policy coherence and efficiency in the use of resources;

24. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to address systemic issues that hamper good management of the Organization, including the work processes and procedures, and in that context stresses that structural change is no substitute for managerial improvement;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to identify, where possible, means to achieve greater complementarities and synergies between the Department of Political Affairs and other departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat as well as other relevant actors of the United Nations system;

26. Stresses the importance of clear reporting lines and accountability between the special political missions and Headquarters;

27. Decides to establish the Middle East and West Asia Division and, in this regard, not to divide it into sections and units, and stresses the need to continue the current arrangement;

28. Recalls all United Nations resolutions related to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine, and notes the responsibilities of the Middle East and West Asia Division in this regard;

29. Decides that the Asia and Pacific Division shall be composed of two sections, as follows:

(a) Asia-Pacific I Section (Central, South and North-East Asian countries);

(b) Asia-Pacific II Section (South-East Asia and the Pacific countries);

30. Also decides that the Americas Division shall comprise four sections, as follows:

(a) North America;

(b) Central America;

(c) The Caribbean;

(d) South America;

31. Stresses the importance of the Department of Political Affairs continuing to pay adequate attention to the situation in Haiti in support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and other relevant United Nations entities;

32. Decides that the Caribbean Section shall be headed at the P-5 level;

33. Stresses the importance of the Department of Political Affairs continuing to pay adequate attention to regional and subregional organizations;

34. Decides not to establish a Policy, Partnerships and Mediation Support Division and not to approve the reclassification of a post for a director of that division from the D-1 to the D-2 level, and requests the Secretary-General to resubmit its proposals, taking fully into account the mandate of the Department of Political Affairs as stipulated in the strategic framework;

35. Also decides not to establish a Special Political Missions Support Unit until a report on the management and administration of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs is considered by the General Assembly;

36. Stresses the need for the Secretary-General to consider the status of the existing field presence of the United Nations entities engaged in promoting peace and security, taking into account their respective mandates, before proposing the establishment of regional offices;

37. Recalls paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and stresses that the establishment of any future regional political affairs office requires the concurrence of all concerned Member States covered by the relevant mandate approved by the appropriate legislative bodies;

38. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to regularly brief Member States on issues related to the work of the Department of Political Affairs and to keep ensuring appropriate interaction between the Department and the principal bodies of the Organization;

39. Requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with conducting an audit of the management of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs, as a follow-up to the report of the Office, and to submit a report on the audit to the General Assembly for consideration at the main part of its sixty-fourth session;
40. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the efficiency and effectiveness of the new structure in the implementation of mandates as well as programmatic delivery and improvements in the administrative and management processes and efficiency gains;

41. Decides to establish the posts as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

**ANNEX**

**Department of Political Affairs:**

**posts to be established under the programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizational unit</th>
<th>Number of posts</th>
<th>Post level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 LL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liaison Office</td>
<td>Reclassification</td>
<td>1 D-1 to D-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Under-Secretary-General</td>
<td>1 P-3 to P-4</td>
<td>1 D-2 from Americas Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Assistant Secretary-General (Africa)</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>1 P-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa I Division</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>3 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 2 GS (OL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa II Division</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>6 P-3, 4 P-2, 1 GS (OL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and West Asia Division</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>5 P-5, 1 P-4 (Iraq), 2 P-3, 1 P-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and Pacific Division</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>4 3 P-3, 1 P-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas Division</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>3 1 P-5, 2 P-2 D-2 to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe Division</td>
<td>Reclassification</td>
<td>1 P-4 (Cyprus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediation Support Unit</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 P-2, 1 GS (OL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electoral Assistance Division</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>8 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 GS (OL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Council Affairs Division</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>2 P-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Office</td>
<td>Reclassification</td>
<td>1 P-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 P-5 to D-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong></td>
<td>2 D-2, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 12 P-4, 12 P-3, 12 P-2, 8 GS (OL), 1 LL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other Level); LL, Local level.

**Peacemaking and peacebuilding**

**Post-conflict peacebuilding**

**Post-conflict stabilization**

On 20 May [meeting 5895], the Security Council, at the United Kingdom’s request, considered the issue of post-conflict peacebuilding, in particular post-conflict stabilization: peace after war. It had before it a concept paper on the subject submitted by the United Kingdom [S/2008/291], which sought to identify the challenges facing the international community in stabilizing countries recovering from conflict and delivering sustainable peace. It stated that nearly 30 per cent of conflicts that ended through negotiated settlements restarted within five years, often because the international community did not get its act together in the critical period immediately following a ceasefire and peace agreement. At that point, crucial needs had to be met, including rapid implementation of the peace agreement to maintain the commitment of the parties, re-establishment of stability and the rule of law, and a demonstrable improvement in the lives of local people. The international community needed to support national and local State institutions in taking responsibility for the recovery effort, but their efforts were often too little, too late and too fragmented. Three gaps were identified that hampered international efforts to help countries emerging from conflict to stabilize: leadership and how to ensure that the actors operated effectively and coherently, building legitimate and competent national ownership and capacity as quickly as possible; putting in place rapidly deployable and skilled civilian capacity; and the provision of more rapid and flexible funding.

The Secretary-General, in his address to the Council, said that lessons from many countries demonstrated that, while each context was different, there were three common and immediate priorities to be addressed: establishing viable political processes to buttress peace agreements and to put in place legitimate national authorities; restoring security and the rule of law, including early development of accountable security services and justice systems; and delivering immediate benefits to the affected population and creating conditions for longer-term development. To strengthen the collective response in the immediate aftermath of conflict and deliver on those priorities, the Organization needed to be coherent and put in place structures, planning and monitoring processes to support that effort throughout the transition to longer-term peacebuilding. Coordination and clarity of leadership were critical to ensuring that each partner brought its distinctive strength to the collective effort. The United Nations also needed sufficient capacity and expertise. The Secretary-General’s Special Representatives should be empowered to lead on the ground, including having the means to identify strategic priorities, elaborate plans and mobilize funds with others, in particular development partners. The creation of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in DPKO reflected the commitment to a team approach to upholding the rule of law, security sector reform and respect for human rights, but there remained a shortage of judges, prison wardens, State administrators and managers—particularly those with knowledge of the countries and systems in which the Organization operated. Not only should they be well equipped when deployed, but should also have start-up funding at their disposal. The Organization
had to do better in delivering early peace dividends by scaling up relief and development capacities to enable national authorities to pay their civil servants, restoring agricultural life and initiating employment programmes. Ultimately, all of that depended on early and flexible funding. Bold and innovative steps were required to meet critical priority needs. To facilitate rapid delivery in the earliest phase, the international community should explore approaches such as a common start-up fund. Many of those issues had been identified by the Peacebuilding Commission, which had a key role to play in supporting national actors in achieving their long-term objectives for sustainable peace and development.

The representative of the World Bank said that over the previous 15 years, the World Bank had expanded its work on conflict and fragility, both operationally and analytically, focusing more on peacebuilding, State-building, institutional reforms and partnerships. The Bank had approved a new State-building and peacebuilding fund to address the needs of State and local governance and peacebuilding in fragile situations, with the aim to complement the UN Peacebuilding Fund and other efforts. It had commissioned applied research in areas such as conflict and development and natural resources and conflict, in collaboration with renowned research institutions. Overcoming the problems of countries coming out of conflict or seeking to avoid the breakdown of the State was crucial to the Bank’s development mission. With regard to more rapid and flexible funding, large-scale post-conflict multi-donor trust funds could play a critical role during the reconstruction process, as the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and the Trust Fund for Timor-Leste had done. The Bank believed that the fiduciary principles accord being prepared by the United Nations Development Group and the Bank would significantly improve the administration of such trust funds and deliver results more rapidly. To be strategic, large-scale post-conflict trust funds should be built upon post-conflict needs assessments, transitional results matrices and sector analysis, but they did not always cater to the start-up phase. A number of other funds, such as the Peacebuilding Fund, could cover that phase without the need for a separate assessment.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 May [meeting 5895], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2008/16 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and emphasizes the critical importance of post-conflict peacebuilding in laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development after the scourge of war.

The Council recognizes that supporting States to recover from conflict and build sustainable peace is a major challenge facing the international community, and that an effective response requires political, security, humanitarian and development activities to be integrated and coherent, including in the first phase of integrated mission planning.

The Council emphasizes the importance of national ownership and the primary responsibility of national authorities emerging from conflict for peacebuilding and sustainable development, expresses its intention to support those efforts and encourages other actors to do the same.

The Council recalls its resolution 1645(2005) and welcomes the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in advising on the coordination of international peacebuilding activities and resources, and expresses its support for enhancing the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund.

The Council recognizes that, in particular in the immediate aftermath of conflict, affected countries have urgent needs including, but not limited to, the re-establishment of the institutions of government, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed forces, security sector reform, transitional justice, reconciliation, re-establishing the rule of law and respect for human rights and economic revitalization. The Council underlines that civilian expertise in post-conflict peacebuilding is essential in helping to meet these needs.

The Council encourages efforts to address the urgent need for rapidly deployable civilian expertise and stresses that the critical role for such expertise is working in cooperation with national authorities to strengthen national capacities.

The Council highlights the need for the United Nations to play a leading role in the field in coordinating international efforts in post-conflict situations. The Council stresses that coordination between national authorities and others involved in longer-term reconstruction and development, including organs of the United Nations system in accordance with their respective mandates, the international financial institutions, as well as with civil society and the business sector, is vital for the success of United Nations and international engagement in post-conflict situations.

The Council stresses the need to ensure that finance is available from the outset for recovery and peacebuilding activities to meet immediate needs, and to lay a solid foundation for longer-term reconstruction and development.

The Council reaffirms the role of regional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and the need to strengthen the capacity of regional organizations in helping countries to recover from conflict.

The Council encourages the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Commission, international and regional organizations and Member States to consider how to support national efforts in affected countries to secure a sustainable peace more rapidly and effectively, includ-
ing in the areas of coordination, civilian deployment capabilities and financing. The Council invites the Secretary-General to provide advice within 12 months to the relevant United Nations organs on how best to take forward these issues within the United Nations system and, taking into consideration the views of the Peacebuilding Commission, how to coordinate peacebuilding activities and encourage the mobilization and most effective use of resources for urgent peacebuilding needs.

**Communication.** In response to the Council’s request to advise relevant UN bodies on how to take forward the issues pertaining to securing sustainable peace, the Secretary-General, in a 19 September letter [A/63/374-S/2008/620] to the Peacebuilding Commission Chairperson, indicated his intention to dedicate the requisite efforts and capacities towards that end. In that regard, he had appointed the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Jane Holl Lute, to coordinate the exercise, indicate the appropriate timing for the Commission’s contribution to that exercise, and represent him at all related Commission deliberations. He hoped that by addressing critical gaps in the UN response to post-conflict situations, the Commission’s advisory role would assume greater significance for all UN and non-UN operational activities in the countries concerned.

**Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration**

**Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations consideration.** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session (New York, 10 March–4 April and 3 July) [A/62/19], requested the Secretary-General to ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes were tailored to the specific context, carried out within a broad peacebuilding strategy, including institution-building, and consistent with the host country’s national strategies. Together with other UN partners, it should ensure that DDR programmes were developed in line with the integrated DDR standards. The Special Committee noted the Secretariat’s efforts to provide support and guidance to DDR programmes in the field, and in piloting integrated DDR units, with the intention of reviewing lessons learned from those units. The Special Committee requested a briefing on progress made on the implementation of DDR standards and programmes, as well as on the activities of the inter-agency working group on those issues. It recognized that the reintegration of ex-combatants was especially challenging and should be planned from the outset in conjunction with disarmament and demobilization programmes, as well as socio-economic development and job creation. It encouraged the inter-agency working group to further develop integrated DDR standards on assessment, planning and the implementation of social and economic reintegration programmes, and called upon donors to provide long-term, timely and sustained support to DDR programmes, ensuring that sufficient funds were allocated to the entire process. The Special Committee stressed the importance of ensuring that all women and children associated with armed forces and groups were included in DDR programmes, and reiterated the importance of including special measures to ensure the early release of children from armed groups and to prevent their re-recruitment.

**Other peacebuilding issues**

**Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations consideration.** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], reaffirmed the need for the Secretary-General to plan and conduct UN peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, the prevention of recurrence of armed conflicts and progress towards sustainable peace and development. The Special Committee underlined the importance of coordination between the Peacebuilding Support Office, UN funds, programmes and agencies and non-UN partners in peacebuilding efforts. It emphasized the need for a coherent and coordinated approach, building on the strengths of various actors, including UN bodies. The Special Committee underlined the need to formulate peacebuilding strategies and programmes that were integrated with host-nation strategies and programmes to ensure national ownership, and recommended that the Secretary-General explore opportunities for partnerships in post-conflict situations with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and regional arrangements, such as the European Union, with a view to establishing effective cooperation.

The Special Committee underlined the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in developing integrated peacebuilding strategies and marshalling resources for their implementation, ensuring fulfilment of mutual commitments on the part of stakeholders, and promoting dialogue on cross-cutting peacebuilding issues and lessons learned. It welcomed the establishment of inter-agency coordination mechanisms to ensure coordination among UN actors involved in peacebuilding, and encouraged regular interaction among UN partners and with Member States to increase the sharing of knowledge and best practices. It requested the Secretary-General to provide advice within 12 months to the relevant United Nations organs on how best to take forward these issues within the United Nations system and, taking into consideration the views of the Peacebuilding Commission, how to coordinate peacebuilding activities and encourage the mobilization and most effective use of resources for urgent peacebuilding needs.
required that the causes of the conflict be addressed and that local rule-of-law capacities be established from the beginning of a UN peacekeeping operation and strengthened. Recognizing the need for greater clarity and specificity in UN peacekeeping mandates on rule-of-law issues, it requested that DPKO ensure that rule-of-law and transitional justice were integrated into the planning of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee welcomed the progress made in assessing lessons learned and options for rule-of-law strategies in the field for ongoing and future UN peacekeeping operations. It welcomed the development of guidance material for operational rule-of-law issues, and requested the Secretariat to brief Member States whenever guidance material was initiated and to provide information on progress. It called upon DPKO to ensure cooperation and coordination among all mission components in the context of rule of law, underlining the importance of a holistic and coherent UN approach.

The General Assembly, in resolution 63/128 of 11 December (see p. 1450), decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth (2011) session the item “Rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations”.

**Peacebuilding Commission**

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1645(2005) and 1646(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 94] and General Assembly resolution 60/180 [ibid.], the Peacebuilding Commission submitted a June report [A/63/92-S/2008/417] on its second session for the period from 23 June 2007 to 22 June 2008. During the session, the Commission consolidated its achievements in Burundi and Sierra Leone and instituted a joint monitoring and tracking mechanism to allow it to review progress in those two countries. It was able to apply some of the lessons learned in the two countries and to build some innovations into the new Guinea-Bissau process, such as dispatching a field mission by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, immediately following the country’s referral to the Commission and the adoption of a two-track approach on the use of the Peacebuilding Fund. Those initiatives were observed in all configurations and demonstrated the Commission’s ability to provide a flexible response as the situation warranted. While progress had been achieved in its existing configurations, the evolving challenges before the Commission required additional and targeted efforts by its members, partners and relevant actors. The Commission would chart the way forward in its engagement with the countries on its agenda and in further refining its role and added value.

The Commission’s Working Group on Lessons Learned, at eight informal meetings, focused on the lessons and good practices associated with: the design and monitoring of peacebuilding strategic frameworks in fragile States; constraints placed on fiscal capacities in post-conflict countries; the challenges to local governance and decentralization in post-war contexts; opportunities for enhancing women’s participation in peacebuilding; promotion of justice during transition; risks from failing to address internal displacement in post-war settings; and the interplay between the environment, natural resources, conflict and peacebuilding. The Working Group targeted its findings and policy recommendations at the work of the country-specific configurations. In June, the Working Group reviewed the major principles and best practices collected to date within the broader peacebuilding perspective, and its Chair reported to the Organizational Committee on the findings.

To provide integrated strategies for peacebuilding, the Commission continued to pay attention to the countries under its consideration and to support national efforts in the areas of dialogue, reconciliation, capacity-building, institutional reforms, economic recovery and human rights. It intended to enhance its standing by building on its accomplishments and by consolidating efforts in the countries under its consideration so as to minimize the risk of their lapse or relapse into conflict. It would refine the Integrated Peacebuilding Strategy concept, as well as options for future engagement, tailored to the specific country situations. With the assistance of the Peacebuilding Support Office, it would research support for peacebuilding activities in the countries under its consideration. In that context, it noted the need for the Secretariat to support the mapping exercise on peacebuilding activities in those countries, and invited all stakeholders to provide information to the Peacebuilding Support Office.

The Commission, at its first informal ambassadorial-level retreat (18–19 January), discussed the added value of the Commission in addressing peacebuilding challenges and gaps in the overall peace continuum and the development of an understanding on the way forward at the conceptual, methodological and strategic levels. It agreed to continue the peacebuilding strategy and policy discussion to strengthen its capacity to implement its mandates and enhance impact on the ground.

In terms of marshalling resources and enhancing coordination, the Commission acknowledged the importance of official development assistance and trade and investment in post-conflict countries, and was encouraged that several bilateral Commission partners had increased their commitments towards countries under consideration or initiated a new engagement. It would continue to develop methods for mobilizing international and domestic resources and related instruments, such as the early mapping exer-
cise and systematic monitoring and tracking mechanisms. It would also strengthen its involvement in the mobilization of non-financial resources, and cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and regional or subregional organizations in addressing the specific needs of countries by building on expertise within the United Nations and other organizations. The Commission would create closer strategic ties between its engagements and the use of the Peacebuilding Fund and explore ways to engage in the General Assembly’s review of the Fund’s terms of reference.

As for enhancing collaboration and outreach, the Commission Chairperson would continue to hold regular meetings with the Presidents of UN principal organs and the Secretary-General, and keep the Organizational Committee informed of those discussions. The Commission would continue to promote implementation of Integrated Peacebuilding Strategies and seek support of relevant actors to that effect. To enhance its convening role, the Commission would encourage inputs from Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society, and disseminate the outcome of its work and lessons learned, including through its website, the Peacebuilding Community of Practice and the Peacebuilding Initiative project of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research.

On 25 April, Côte d’Ivoire’s request for placement on the Commission’s agenda was conveyed to the Security Council for consideration. The request was also brought to the attention of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General.

During the year, the Commission carried out activities relevant to countries on its agenda: Burundi (see p. 152), the Central African Republic (see p. 158), Guinea-Bissau (see p. 228) and Sierra Leone (see p. 214).

Organizational Committee

The Peacebuilding Commission’s Organizational Committee held formal meetings on 12, 19 and 23 June [PBC/2/OC/SR.6, PBC/2/OC/SR.7 & Add.1]. The Committee discussed at its first meeting the letter from the Security Council President conveying the Council’s acceptance of the request by the Central African Republic that the country be placed on the Commission’s agenda and inviting the Commission to advise on the situation there. At subsequent meetings, the Committee considered the Commission’s revised draft report on its second session. The Committee also held informal meetings on 16 January, 19 February, 24 March, 17 April, 13 May, 2, 12 and 19 June, 15 September, 29 October, 19 November and 17 December. Among the subjects discussed were: the role of the private sector in peacebuilding; harmonizing Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund activities; forging synergies for peacebuilding; the construction of capable States in Africa, with reports from the task force on the private sector and the Working Group on Lessons Learned; cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); employment/income generation and private sector development in post-conflict countries; and preparations for the review of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund and for the Secretary-General’s report on post-conflict peacebuilding and early recovery.

The Committee considered letters from the Commission Chairperson and Acting Chairperson of 1 February [PBC/2/OC/9] inviting a number of States, UN agencies and intergovernmental bodies to participate in the Guinea-Bissau configuration, and of 24 March [PBC/2/OC/10] concerning the participation of Benin in that configuration; letters of 30 June [PBC/3/OC/5], 20 August [PBC/3/OC/6] and 9 September [PBC/3/OC/7] concerning the participation of States and organizations in the Central African configuration; letters of 27 June [PBC/3/OC/3] concerning the participation of Norway in the Burundi configuration and of 17 July [PBC/3/OC/2] concerning the election of Sweden as Chair of that configuration; and letters of 17 June [PBC/2/OC/13] concerning the participation of Burkina Faso in the Sierra Leone configuration, and of 27 June [PBC/3/OC/4] on the participation of Italy in the Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations.

Organizational Committee membership

Security Council. On 3 January [A/62/684-S/2008/84 & Corr.1], the Security Council President informed the Secretary-General that, following informal consultations conducted on the same date, the Council had selected Belgium and South Africa to participate in the Organizational Committee for a term of one year, until the end of 2008.

Economic and Social Council. On 14 January, the Economic and Social Council re-elected Brazil to the Organizational Committee until 22 June (decision 2008/201 A). On 20 June, the Council extended until 11 July the terms of office of Angola, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Luxembourg and Sri Lanka (decision 2008/201 D). On 11 and 16 July, it further extended those terms of office until 31 December (decision 2008/201 E).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2008/38 [draft: E/2008/L.7/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 1].
Membership of the Economic and Social Council on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

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

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

Recalling further its resolution 2006/3 of 8 May 2006 on the membership of the Council on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/145 of 18 December 2008, in which the Assembly, inter alia, invited other bodies with members elected to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission to adjust the term of office of their respective members so that the term of office of all members of the Organizational Committee could start on 1 January instead of 23 June,

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

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

1. Decides that, starting in 2009, the two-year term of office of the members of the Economic and Social Council elected to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission shall begin on 1 January, instead of on 23 June, with the possibility, as applicable, of their sharing the term within the concerned regional group for the seats allocated to it, subject to the concurrence of the Council;

2. Also decides that the distribution of the seven seats allocated to the Economic and Social Council on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission shall be as follows:

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

   (b) In the election of members of the Economic and Social Council to the Organizational Committee whose term of office shall start on 1 January 2009, the two remaining seats shall be allocated to the regional group of African States;

3. Further decides that the established practice of the Economic and Social Council regarding members elected to its subsidiary bodies who are not able to complete their term of office shall apply to members elected to the Organizational Committee by the Council.

Also on 19 December, the Council elected Algeria, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Luxembourg, Morocco, Poland and the Republic of Korea to a term of office on the Committee, beginning on 1 January 2009, of two years or until the expiration of their membership in the Council, whichever was earlier (decision 2008/201 G).

General Assembly. On 20 June, the General Assembly decided, as an interim measure, to extend the term of office of the members of the Assembly on the Organizational Committee, namely, Burundi, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador and Fiji, which was due to expire on 22 June, until 11 July (decision 62/419 A). On 11 July, the Assembly decided, as an interim measure, to further extend the term of office of the members of the Assembly on the Committee until 31 December (decision 62/419 B).

General Assembly Action

On 18 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/145 [draft: A/63/L.58] without vote [agenda item 104 (b)].

Election by the General Assembly of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission: term of office

The General Assembly,

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

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

Recalling its resolution 60/261 of 8 May 2006 on the arrangements for the election by the General Assembly of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Recalling also General Assembly decision 62/419 B of 11 July 2008, whereby the term of office of the members of the General Assembly on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission due to expire on 22 June 2008 was extended until 31 December 2008,

1. Decides that, beginning with the election to be held during the sixty-third session, the term of office of the members of the General Assembly on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission shall begin on 1 January instead of 23 June;

2. Also decides that the term of office of the two members of the General Assembly on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission due to expire on 22 June 2009, namely Georgia and Jamaica, shall be extended until 31 December 2009;

3. Invites other bodies with members on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission that have not yet done so to adjust the term of office of their respective members so that the term of office of all members of the Organizational Committee can start on 1 January.
On 22 December, the Assembly elected Benin, Chile, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay as members of the Committee for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2009 to fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of Burundi, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador and Fiji (decision 63/415).

Troop and financial contributors. On 4 April [A/62/795], Ghana informed the General Assembly President that, on the basis of informal consultations held on 26 March, the top 10 contributing countries of military personnel and civilian police had selected Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Nigeria to serve on the Organizational Committee for a two-year term starting on 23 June.

On 30 April [A/62/825], the United States, as facilitator of the group of 10 leading financial contributors to the United Nations, informed the Assembly President that Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden, from among the 10, would serve for a second term on the Organizational Committee. On 18 December [A/63/632], the United States informed the Secretary-General that the group had decided to extend the term of the five members by six months, from 23 June to 31 December 2010.

On 20 June, the Assembly was informed that the term of office of the members of the troop-contributing countries on the Commission’s Organizational Committee, which was due to expire on 22 June, had been extended until 11 July (decision 62/419 A). On 11 July, the Assembly was informed, by a letter dated 10 July to the President of the General Assembly, that the term of office of the current members of the troop-contributing countries on the Organizational Committee had been extended until 31 December (decision 62/419 B).

On 19 December [A/63/631], Ghana, referring to its 10 July letter confirming that Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Nigeria and Pakistan would represent the top 10 troop-contributing countries on the Committee, stated that it was Ghana’s understanding that the question of allocation of regional seats in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in respect of Committee membership had been resolved, thus paving the way for the election of new members from those bodies by 22 December. It therefore informed the Secretary-General that it had been decided that the term of office of the five countries from the troop-contributing country category would be from 1 January 2009 until 31 December 2009.

Financing of Peacebuilding Commission field missions

In 2007, the Commission’s Organizational Committee considered the question of the financing of field missions of the Commission [YUN 2007, p. 54] and mandated its Chairman [A/62/493] to inform the Secretary-General of its request that the agenda item of the General Assembly’s sixty-second session entitled “Report of the Peacebuilding Commission” be also allocated to the Fifth Committee for the sole purpose of considering the question of financing field missions of the Commission.

To facilitate the Fifth Committee’s review, the Secretary-General submitted a January 2008 note [A/62/670] containing preliminary estimates of field visits to be undertaken by the Commission in 2008 and 2009. It was anticipated that visits would be undertaken to each of the three countries under consideration, in addition to one country in Asia and one in the Americas. Given the potential increase in the number of countries on the Commission’s agenda, the Assembly might wish to consider more stable funding for those visits. The preliminary cost estimate was $676,300 for the 2008–2009 biennium. Any future requirements would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the relevant biennium.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in a February report [A/62/7/Add.33], recommended that the Assembly concur with the Secretary-General’s proposal. The Assembly did so in section II of resolution 62/245 of 3 April (see p. 1551).

Peacebuilding Fund

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/287 [YUN 2006, p. 58], the Secretary-General submitted the second annual report [A/63/218-S/2008/522 & Corr.1] on the Peacebuilding Fund, established in 2006 [ibid.] as a mechanism for extending critical support at the early stages of a peace process. The report provided an update on the Fund’s activities and achievements from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, and highlighted the achievements and emerging lessons that required the attention of the UN system in order to enhance its effectiveness as a strategic instrument for consolidating peace in post-conflict countries.

As at 30 June, the Fund had received pledges of $269.9 million from 44 donors, a $43 million (19 per cent) increase over the 2007 figure, exceeding the $250 million funding target. Of that amount, $238.5 million had been received. The top eight contributors to the Fund were Sweden ($42.3 million), the United Kingdom ($36 million), Norway ($32.1 million), Japan ($20 million), Canada ($18.8 million), the Netherlands ($18.5 million), Ireland ($12.6 million) and Germany ($10 million). Over 20 developing countries had also contributed to the Fund, illustrating its broad donor base. The Fund also benefited from its first private donation, in the amount of $18,933 by a single individual, as well as an addi-
national $8.4 million in interest and investment income as at 31 December 2007. A total of $106.9 million or 44.8 per cent of total Fund deposits had been allocated to support Fund activities in the four countries on the Peacebuilding Commission’s agenda (window I countries), one of the five countries declared eligible for window II funding (countries designated by the Secretary-General) and for seven emergency projects under window III funding (emergency projects). The balance of unprogrammed funds available for new Fund countries and pipeline projects stood at $131.6 million (55.2 per cent of total deposits).

Since the creation of the Fund, 37 projects had been approved to support priority plan and emergency window activities in nine post-conflict countries: Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Under windows I and II, the level of allocated funds transferred to recipient UN organizations was as follows: Burundi (89 per cent), Guinea-Bissau (98 per cent), Liberia (0.6 per cent) and Sierra Leone (46 per cent). Under the emergency window, seven projects amounting to $5.9 million had been approved.

Under window I funding, Guinea-Bissau was declared eligible for Fund Support on 11 March. Under window II funding, the Central African Republic was declared eligible to receive the Fund’s support in January, Comoros on 25 June, Côte d’Ivoire on 19 June, and Guinea on 25 June. The Fund’s emergency window supported projects in seven countries (Côte d’Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Liberia, Burundi, Haiti, Kenya), with a focus on supporting political dialogue (2 projects), national reconciliation (2 projects), security support (1 project) and support for peace agreements (2 projects).

The thematic priority areas of the Fund included promoting good governance and the rule of law, security sector reform, justice delivery and reforms, protecting human rights, youth empowerment and employment, tackling poverty and land dispute, return and resettlement of refugees, promoting inclusive national political dialogue, support for peace agreements and ceasefires, democratization and electoral reform, and promoting reconciliation and conflict prevention. The Fund’s Advisory Group, at its second meeting in March, reviewed the Fund’s first year of full operations and emerging challenges and lessons. The Advisory Group provided guidance on the use of the Fund’s windows, funding allocations criteria, emerging challenges and opportunities, the independent evaluation of the Fund in 2008, and ways to improve project performance and delivery. In proposing the Office of Internal Oversight Services as the independent evaluator, the Advisory Group stressed the importance of early evaluation to help strengthen the Fund’s methodology, operational capabilities and scope. The evaluation, commissioned in March, would propose enhancements to its modus operandi and functions. On the basis of that evaluation, the Secretary-General planned to review the Fund’s terms of reference, in consultation with the Advisory Group and with the advice of the Commission and the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General concluded that the Fund had shown its ability to function as a flexible, stand-alone mechanism. That ability should be preserved while ensuring performance accountability. Frequent interaction with the Commission, in the form of quarterly progress reports and communications, was needed to ensure optimum synergies and that lessons learned from operations were factored into Commission discussions. The Fund’s methodology should be flexible enough to provide for a broad range of post-conflict early recovery situations, including those where local capacities needed initial strengthening prior to decentralized resource allocation. Although the emergency window had worked well, it did not meet the demand for larger-scale stand-alone projects. That window’s scope, size and use might need to be reviewed to allow the Fund to support larger-scale operations on a case-by-case basis, without the need for setting up an entire window II infrastructure.

UN agency programming modalities and procedures had been key causes of delays in project implementation. Agencies should develop more appropriate mechanisms for early recovery interventions and adapt procedures in line with the Fund’s uniqueness. Simplification of national Fund coordination structures, described as too cumbersome in Sierra Leone and Burundi, might be needed. The capacity of the Peacebuilding Support Office to monitor and backstop the Fund at the country level was limited. In view of the rapidly expanding number of Fund countries, additional staff capacity was required to address crucial programme management and planning, monitoring and evaluation needs. In addition, resources were required to build surge capacity to support new and ongoing programmes, monitoring visits, technical advisory services, global training and monitoring and evaluation systems. In-country capacity to manage the Fund portfolio needed to be reviewed to ensure sound project design and implementation. To better support the national steering committees and implementing partners, in-country support budgets should include provision for staff, monitoring and evaluation, training, technical support services and transport. As many new programmes had initial delays due to the workload during Fund start-up, surge capacity should be provided to ensure appropriate in-country capacity to implement the Fund. Such surge capacity should be funded from the Fund’s overhead or from other surge mechanisms for early recovery, such as the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. The current
policy of covering operational costs entirely from the overhead should be reviewed, in particular for countries with smaller funding envelopes, because it limited the Fund’s ability to set up appropriate secretariats to build local capacity. The Fund’s Advisory Group should be strengthened by expanding its membership to include the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of additional independent expertise on peacebuilding and early recovery programming. In recognition of the growing importance of regional and subregional organizations in facilitating, brokering and consolidating peace, and in national peacebuilding efforts, consideration should be given to direct Fund support for such activities. An annual pledging conference, as stipulated in the terms of reference, should be held to ensure longer-term donor support.

With regard to the overall activities of its third session [A/64/341-S/2009/444], the Commission reported that, in December, in compliance with the terms of reference of the Fund, the Peacebuilding Support Office initiated a consultative process leading to the revision of those terms of reference.

Special political missions

Evaluation of special political missions

OIOS report. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) submitted an April report [E/AC.51/2008/2] on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) but supported by the Department of Field Support (DFS). The evaluation examined the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of 10 field special political missions and their activities.

OIOS found that stakeholders generally acknowledged that special political missions played an important role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. However, it was difficult to ascertain their relative contribution to their mandates or areas of activity due to a number of factors, including the lack of a clear definition and vision of the role of special political missions in UN peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts, and insufficient coordination and cooperation in their work with other UN actors. There was only limited monitoring, review and self-evaluation by DPA of special political mission performance, with little assessment of their contribution to peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Also hindering the impact of special political missions were poor systems and processes for administrative and substantive support, which were not sufficiently responsive and tailored to each mission’s needs and circumstances. Strategic planning and mission deployment were also in need of improvement.

OIOS made four recommendations for enhancing the contribution of special political missions to peacebuilding and conflict prevention. It recommended that DPA, working with other Secretariat departments and the Secretary-General, develop clear guidelines that defined special political missions, their role in UN peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and the responsibilities of Secretariat departments with respect to leadership and support to those missions. DPA was called on to improve initial strategic planning, preparation and deployment of special political missions by ensuring that a clear mission strategy was developed for each mission. DPA and DFS should agree and prepare terms of reference or guidelines that improved cooperation and coordination in special political mission planning and support and that outlined the respective roles, responsibilities and standards for interaction between the Departments to ensure that mission resources were better tailored to circumstances and need. Mechanisms were needed for stronger overall management of DPA, coordination and oversight of special political missions, including policies or processes within the Department for more formalized coordination and knowledge-sharing in mission planning and support, as well as clarification of overall responsibility and accountability within the Department for special political mission performance and results. All relevant departments agreed or agreed in principle with the recommendations.

CPC consideration. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its forty-eighth session (9 June–3 July) [A/63/16], recommended that the General Assembly endorse the OIOS recommendations as revised by the Committee. It noted the need to improve the overall management of the special political missions, as well as the intended overall role and goals, the expected mission activities and how those activities would contribute to achieving the mission mandate, and the expected time to achieve the mandate or criteria that might be used in measuring progress and in determining whether the mission accomplished its mandate. The Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that special political missions and other local actors strengthen their cooperation and coordination in order to achieve the expected outcomes and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the United Nations.

By decision 62/545 B of 3 April, the Assembly deferred until its sixty-third (2008) session the agenda item on “Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the management of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs”.

Roster of 2008 political missions and offices

On 1 January 2008, 12 UN political missions and offices were in operation: 6 in Africa, 4 in Asia and the
Pacific, and 2 in the Middle East. During the year, one
mission (the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra
Leone (uniosil)) was closed and one new mission (the
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Si-
erra Leone (unipsil)) was launched; thus, 12 missions
and offices were in operation at the end of the year.

In Africa, the mandate of the United Nations
Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau was
extended until 30 June 2009. On 4 August, the Secu-
rity Council requested the Secretary-General to estab-
lish unipsil, beginning 1 October 2008, for a period
of 12 months, replacing uniosil, whose mandate
ended on 31 July. The Council noted the Secretary-
General’s recommendation to extend the mandate of
the United Nations Support Office in the Central Af-
rican Republic until 31 December 2009, and looked
forward to receiving his recommendation regarding
the establishment of an integrated UN office in the
Central African Republic. The Council extended,
until 31 December 2009, the mandate of the United
Nations Integrated Office in Burundi. In addition,
on 29 December [S/2008/827], the Council President
informed the Secretary-General that the Council had
noted his recommendation [S/2008/826] that the man-
date of the temporary Liaison Office of the Special
Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Lord’s Resist-
ance Army (lra)-affected areas be extended through
31 December 2009 and the Office upgraded to a spe-
cial political mission (see p. 170).

With regard to Asia and the Pacific, the Council
renewed the mandates of the United Nations Mis-
ion in Nepal until 23 January 2009 and the United
Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan until 23
March 2009, and that of the United Nations Assist-
ance Mission for Iraq for a 12-month period begin-
ing on 7 August 2008. In the Democratic People’s
Republic of Korea, the United Nations Command
continued to implement the maintenance of the 1953
Armistice Agreement [YUN 1953, p. 136].

(For financing of UN political and peacebuilding
missions, see Part Five, Chapter II.)

UNPOS
United Nations Political Office for Somalia

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

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania).

Strength: 32 international civilian staff, 16 local
civilian staff.

UNOGBIS
United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in
Guinea-Bissau
Established: 3 March 1999.

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

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

Strength: 9 international civilian staff, 2 military
advisers, 1 police adviser, 14 local civilian staff.

UNSCO
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator
for the Middle East
Established: 1 October 1999.

Mandate: To act as the focal point for the UN con-
tribution to the implementation of the peace agree-
ments and to enhance UN assistance.

Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to
the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian
Authority: Robert H. Serry (Netherlands).

Strength: 29 international civilian staff, 24 local
civilian staff.

BONUCA
United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central
African Republic

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

Representative of the Secretary-General: François
Lonseny Fall (Guinea).

Strength: 24 international civilian staff, 5 military
advisers, 6 police, 54 local civilian staff, 3 UN vol-
unteers.

UNSCOL
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator
for Lebanon (formerly known as the Office of the
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for
Southern Lebanon)

Mandate: To represent the Secretary-General politi-
cally and coordinate UN work in Lebanon.

Special Coordinator for Lebanon: Michael C. Williams
(United Kingdom).

Strength: 14 international civilian staff, 28 local
civilian staff.
**UNOWA**
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa  
*Mandate:* To enhance the contribution of the United Nations towards the achievement of peace and security priorities in West Africa.  
*Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Said Djinnit (Algeria).  
*Strength:* 10 international civilian staff, 11 local civilian staff.

**UNAMA**
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan  
*Mandate:* To fulfil the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations in the Bonn Agreement; promote national reconciliation and rapprochement; manage all UN humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction activities; and assist in the promotion of the political process.  
*Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Kai Eide (Norway).  
*Strength:* 250 international civilian staff, 16 military observers, 5 civilian police, 1,163 local civilian staff, 41 UN volunteers.

**UNAMI**
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq  
*Mandate:* To advise, support and assist the Government and people of Iraq in advancing inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation, and the Government and the Independent High Electoral Commission in the development of processes for holding elections and referenda; promote, support and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons; promote the protection of human rights and judicial and legal reform; and conduct related activities under Security Council resolution 1770(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 346].  
*Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Staffan de Mistura (Sweden).  
*Strength* (staff based in Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait): 296 international civilian staff, 389 local civilian staff, 222 troops, 6 military advisers.

**UNIPSSIL**
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone  
*Established:* 1 October 2008.  
*Mandate:* To provide political support for identifying and resolving tensions and threats of potential conflict; monitor and promote human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, including efforts to counter transnational organized crime and drug trafficking; consolidate good governance reforms, with a focus on anti-corruption instruments; support decentralization, reviewing the 1991 Constitution and the enactment of legislation; and coordinate with and support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as implementation of the Sierra Leone Cooperation Framework and projects supported by the Peacebuilding Fund.  
*Executive Representative of the Secretary-General:* Michael von der Schulenburg (Germany).  
*Strength:* 13 international civilian staff, 1 local civilian staff, 9 UN volunteers.

**BINUB**
United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi  
*Established:* 1 January 2007.  
*Mandate:* To support the Government of Burundi in its efforts towards long-term peace and stability, focusing on activities related to peace consolidation and democratic governance; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; security sector reform; promotion and protection of human rights and measures to end impunity; and donor and UN agency coordination.  
*Executive Representative of the Secretary-General:* Youssef Mahmoud (Tunisia).  
*Strength:* 117 international civilian staff, 213 local civilian staff, 8 military observers, 12 civilian police, 50 UN volunteers.

**UNMIN**
United Nations Mission in Nepal  
*Mandate:* To support the peace process in Nepal by: monitoring the management of arms and armed personnel of the Nepal Army and the Maoist Army; assisting the parties, through a Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee, in implementing the agreement on the management of arms and armed personnel; assisting in the monitoring of ceasefire agreements; and providing technical assistance to the Election Commission.  
*Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Ian Martin (United Kingdom).  
*Strength:* 104 international civilian staff, 158 local civilian staff, 61 military observers, 33 UN volunteers.

**UNRCCA**
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia  
**Mandate:** To liaise with Governments of the region and other parties on preventive diplomacy issues; monitor and analyse the situation on the ground and provide the Secretary-General with information related to conflict prevention efforts; facilitate coordination and information exchange with regional organizations; and support the efforts of regional coordinators and the UN system in promoting an integrated approach to preventive development and humanitarian assistance.

**Special Representative of the Secretary-General:** Miroslav Jenča (Slovakia).

**Strength:** 2 international civilian staff.

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**Threats to international peace and security**

**International terrorism**

On 9 December [meeting 6034], the Security Council held a debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. According to Croatia, which submitted a concept paper on the subject [S/2008/738], the goal of the debate was to revitalize and strengthen international security in combating the threat of terrorism, including the UN leading role in global counter-terrorism efforts. The paper stated that although important strategic counter-terrorism guidance had been adopted, it was clear that specific follow-up had not occurred in the desired time frame. In that regard, many speakers referred to the lack of guidance and coherence within the United Nations.

The Secretary-General, addressing the Council, said that terrorism was a global scourge, inflicting appalling and morally reprehensible carnage, fomenting distrust between States and peoples, tearing societies apart, undermining institutions and weakening bonds between communities. The attacks in Mumbai, India (see p. 66), were the most recent example of misguided individuals run amok. Terrorism was a leading threat to international peace and security, and combating it had to be one of the main priorities of the international community. The United Nations had a responsibility to lead the international community’s efforts to confront that menace. Indeed, the Security Council and the General Assembly had strongly condemned terrorism time and again, and had sought to promote the universal norm that terrorism was never acceptable.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 9 December [meeting 6034], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2008/45 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council, underlining that peace and security in the world are indivisible and taking into account the interconnection and interdependence of the world, reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. It further reaffirms its determination to combat threats to international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism by all possible means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council welcomes recent statements by intergovernmental organizations condemning all forms of terrorism, including suicide bombing and hostage-taking, which build upon the universal condemnation by the international community of unlawful acts of terrorism, including against civilians, that cannot be justified or excused under any circumstances or pursuant to any political, philosophical, ideological, racial, religious or other consideration, and reaffirms the need for Member States to work together urgently to prevent and suppress such acts.

The Council emphasizes the central role of the United Nations in the global struggle against terrorism.

The Council reaffirms the importance of all its resolutions and statements on terrorism, in particular resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005), and stresses the need for their full implementation.

The Council renews its call upon States to become parties as soon as possible to all relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and to implement those to which they are party.

The Council believes that terrorist safe havens continue to be a significant concern and reaffirms the need for States to strengthen cooperation in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

The Council reaffirms the importance of the work of the committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999), 1373(2001) and 1540(2004) and continues its support and guidance to the committees.

The Council particularly expresses its support for, and commitment to contributing to the implementation of, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 8 September 2006 and welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/272 of 5 September 2008, in which it reaffirmed the Strategy and its four pillars and called for its implementation in an integrated manner and in all its aspects.

The Council emphasizes that enhancing dialogue and broadening understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, and addressing unresolved regional conflicts and the full range of global issues, including development issues, will contribute to international cooperation, which by itself is necessary to sustain the broadest possible fight against terrorism.
The Council condemns in the strongest terms the incitement of terrorist acts and repudiates attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts. It reaffirms the importance of countering radicalization and extremism that may lead to terrorism and preventing the exploitation of young people by violent extremists.

The Council, reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to an effective counter-terrorism strategy and that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing, reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

The Council emphasizes the importance of technical assistance aimed at increasing the capabilities of Member States in the fight against terrorism by addressing their counter-terrorism needs.

The Council believes that the strengthening of mutual trust among States Members of the United Nations will facilitate the creation of conditions for a successful fight against terrorism, and that success in that fight will positively reinforce peace and security in the world.

The Council, deeply concerned at the continuous terrorist attacks around the world, calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to renew the degree of solidarity manifested immediately after the tragic event of 11 September 2001, and to redouble efforts to tackle global terrorism, dedicating significant attention to bringing to justice the perpetrators, facilitators and masterminds of terrorist acts while expressing deep compassion with all victims of terrorism.

The Council will continue to follow developments in order to organize as efficiently as possible its efforts in combating terrorism.

Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Review of implementation

On 4 September [meeting 117] and 5 September [meeting 120], the General Assembly conducted the first review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in 2006 in resolution 60/288 [YUN 2006, p. 66]. It had before it a July report [A/62/898] of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the UN system in implementing the Strategy, submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 60/228. The report highlighted efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and provided a partial picture of the Strategy’s implementation to date. The report described measures to: address the conditions conducive to terrorism; prevent and combat terrorism; build State capacity to prevent terrorism and strengthen the UN role in that regard; and ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

The UN system had contributed to implementation in two ways: its departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes had taken action within their own workplans, both individually and in partnerships; and the system’s 24 entities and Interpol had provided a forum for discussing strategic issues and coordinating action. The Task Force had created nine working groups in areas that could benefit from engagement by more than one UN entity.

Within the UN system, the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) had contributed to the implementation of the work outlined in the Strategy’s first pillar (measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism), as had the three Task Force working groups on preventing and resolving conflicts, on supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism, and on addressing radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism. As the lead UN department for peacemaking and preventive diplomacy, DPA had a wide range of activities for reducing conflicts around the world. Since the adoption of the Strategy, it had established the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, which began operations in June, to assist the Governments of that region in responding more proactively to cross-border challenges and threats such as terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime. It also promoted a culture of peace, justice and human development; ethnic, national and religious tolerance; and respect for all religions, beliefs or cultures, as called for in the Strategy. UNESCO supported programmes that advanced human rights and respect for diversity; fostered dialogue and tolerance among civilizations, cultures and peoples; and promoted mutual knowledge and respect. In January, UNESCO and the Alliance of Civilizations signed a memorandum of understanding to promote joint programming and cooperation on outreach activities. In the previous year, 90 countries had received support from UNDP for the rule of law, access to justice and human rights. UNDP had prepared two programmes on global rule of law and justice, and introduced an initiative focusing on the link between poverty and governance. DPKO sought to reduce opportunities for terrorists to sustain their criminal activities through programmes designed to ensure the adoption of fair and accountable criminal justice systems, the promotion of public safety, and the establishment of the rule of law. The Task Force working group on preventing and resolving conflicts undertook efforts to integrate counter-terrorism objectives into UN system work on the prevention and resolution of armed conflict. To date, the working group had drafted initial guidance on counter-terrorism for use by representatives of the Secretary-General and other peacemakers.
In the area of measures to combat terrorism, the UN system had helped Member States draft legal instruments and guidelines establishing standards for preventative action; compiled rosters and databases to centralize information about resources available to prevent and respond to terrorist acts; and assessed the counter-terrorism capacities of Member States. Through its working group on tackling the financing of terrorism, the Task Force was analysing the effectiveness of the measures in a number of countries to combat terrorist-financing and to identify new approaches to address the issue. The working group had convened seven round tables in Vienna and New York to explore views and proposals with outside experts in the areas of banking, intelligence (including financial intelligence), regulation, law enforcement and criminal justice.

In his recommendations for the way forward, the Secretary-General stated that four briefings to the Assembly on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in connection with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had taken place since 2007, the latest on 4 May 2008 in New York. Member States had expressed interest in greater systematization in order to guide the Task Force on its activities and to provide a stronger communication channel with the membership. The UN system would welcome such an agreement, should Member States so agree. The decision regarding the systematization of their interface with the Task Force rested with the membership, but the Secretary-General could provide advice based on the UN system’s support capacity. Two aspects were pertinent: systematization should be commensurate with the resources provided by the Assembly, both personnel and financial; and the process of systematization should not constitute the greater share of the Task Force’s work, if its coordination and coherence function was to be adequately maintained. Those needs could be met by a number of mechanisms, including regular briefings by the Task Force to the Assembly.

In an effort to operate within existing resources, the Secretary-General relied on voluntary contributions and temporary staff support. However, current arrangements were not sustainable. The Secretary-General would continue to address staffing requirements from within existing resources. Among the requests noted by the Task Force was increased engagement between the UN system and global, regional and subregional organizations, and civil society on the implementation of the Strategy. Global, regional and subregional organizations and civil society provided a resource that had not been tapped by the UN system. Member States, through the governing bodies of those organizations, should encourage cross-regional assistance and cooperation in counter-terrorism so that global, regional and subregional bodies that had developed procedures and expertise in that area could assist those still developing related capacities. The UN system, through the Task Force, if adequately staffed and resourced, could provide a strategic interface with global, regional and subregional bodies and civil society on the Strategy.

The Secretary-General concluded that initial successes in implementing the Counter-Terrorism Strategy should not blur the fact that much remained to be done to dissuade people from resorting to terrorism, deny terrorists the means to carry out their attacks, deter States from supporting terrorism, develop State capacity to defeat terrorism, and defend human rights. Only persistent, concerted and coordinated efforts would provide the opportunity to fully implement the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy and secure a more peaceful world.

On 20 August [A/62/943-S/2008/575], the Permanent Observer of Palestine forwarded to the Security Council President and the Secretary-General a position paper submitted by the Arab Group on the subject. The Group encouraged the establishment of an International Counter-Terrorism Centre under the UN umbrella as envisaged in the Strategy. It stressed the importance of following up on the implementation of the Strategy in a comprehensive and non-selective manner and the pivotal role of the Assembly in addressing the issue of combating terrorism in all its aspects. The Group considered that the institutionalization of the Task Force within the Secretariat with the necessary resources would provide a basis for an organized, constructive and integrated contribution to Member States’ efforts in achieving the Strategy’s objectives.

The Secretary-General, addressing the Assembly on 4 September, urged Member States to take multilateral counter-terrorism further, guided by three main principles. First, the Organization should be innovative in developing its tools, and not shy away from non-traditional approaches to promoting security. Multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation should be undertaken in an integrated manner across the four pillars of the Strategy and range of actors. The UN system, through the Task Force, was developing that capacity. Second, multilateral counter-terrorism efforts had to be undertaken in partnership with regional and subregional organizations and with civil society. Third, at the international level, those efforts should leverage the Organization’s comparative strengths. Bilateral actions might be insufficient to face the needs, whereas the UN collective approach gave multilateral efforts an advantage that should be maximized. The Secretary-General said that he was working to institutionalize the Task Force within the Secretariat and would convene a symposium in New York on supporting victims of terrorism.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 September [meeting 120], the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/272 [draft: A/62/L.48] without a vote [agenda item 118].

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, which called for, inter alia, an examination in two years of progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and for consideration to be given to updating it to respond to changes, as provided for in paragraph 3 (b) of that resolution,

Recalling the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the Strategy,

Renewing its unwavering commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing that international cooperation and any measures undertaken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Convinced that the General Assembly is the competent organ with universal membership to address the issue of international terrorism,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, within their mandates, in the implementation of the Strategy,

Stressing that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force shall carry out its activities within the framework of its mandate, with policy guidance offered by Member States through interaction with the General Assembly on a regular basis,

Recognizing the importance of institutionalizing the Task Force within the Secretariat,

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

2. Reaffirms the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which constitute an ongoing effort, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated manner and in all its aspects;


4. Also takes note of the measures that Member States as well as appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations have adopted within the framework of the Strategy, as presented at the first biennial review of the Strategy, on 4 and 5 September 2008, all of which strengthen cooperation to fight terrorism, in particular through the exchange of best practices;

5. Reaffirms the primary responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy while further recognizing the need to enhance the important role the United Nations plays, in coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, in facilitating coherence in the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels and in providing assistance, especially in the area of capacity-building;

6. Encourages non-governmental organizations and civil society to engage, as appropriate, on how to enhance efforts to implement the Strategy, including through interaction with Member States and the United Nations system;

7. Calls upon the United Nations entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

8. Calls upon States that have not done so to consider becoming parties in a timely manner to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and upon all States to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and recalls the commitments of Member States with regard to the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism;

9. Notes with appreciation the continued contribution of United Nations entities and subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

10. Reaffirms the need to enhance international cooperation in countering terrorism, and in this regard recalls the role of the United Nations system in promoting international cooperation and capacity-building as one of the elements of the Strategy;

11. Urges the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the institutionalization of the Task Force, in accordance with resolution 60/288, in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;

12. Decides to interact with the Task Force on a regular basis, in order to receive briefings and reports on its current and future work, assess the work being undertaken on the Strategy implementation efforts, including the work of the Task Force, and to offer policy guidance;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, which could contain suggestions for its future implementation by the United Nations system, as well as in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” in order to undertake in two years an examination of the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 13 above, as well as the implementation of the Strategy on the part of Member States and to consider updating the Strategy to respond to changes.
Terrorist attacks in 2008

In 2008, terrorist attacks continued worldwide with increased intensity and frequency, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians and injuries to many others. Those attacks were condemned by the Security Council, Member States and the Secretary-General, who called for increased efforts to combat the threat they posed to international peace and security.

Afghanistan

The Security Council, in a 17 February press statement [SC/9251], condemned the suicide attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on the same day, causing numerous deaths. Council members noted with dismay that the attack was one of the deadliest in Afghanistan in recent years and targeted civilians. They urged States to cooperate with the Afghan authorities in bringing the perpetrators to justice. Council members reiterated their concern at the increasing threat to the local population, national security forces, international military and international assistance efforts posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the narcotics trade.

Council members also condemned the suicide attack on 7 July on the Indian Embassy in Kabul. Council members, in a press statement of the same day [SC/9386], reaffirmed their determination to combat terrorism in all its forms. They urged States to cooperate with the authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Algeria

On 19 August, a terrorist attack occurred in Les Issers (east of Algiers), Algeria, at a gendarmerie training academy, killing 43 persons, including civilians, most of whom were between 18 and 20 years of age. In a statement issued the same day [SG/SM/11755], the Secretary-General condemned the attack and added that violence would not deter Algerians from the path of peace and national reconciliation. He urged the international community to support the Government in combating terrorism. In another statement issued the next day [SG/SM/11756], the Secretary-General condemned the two car bomb attacks in the city of Bouira, which reportedly killed 11 people.

Guinea-Bissau

On 23 November, an armed attack was perpetrated on the official residence of Guinea-Bissau President Bernardo João Vieira in Bissau. The Secretary-General, in a 24 November press statement [SG/SM/11947], condemned the attack, expressed concern at reports of alleged involvement of elements of the Armed Forces of Guinea-Bissau and called upon them to refrain from any measures that could further destabilize the country. That action, coming soon after the 16 November legislative elections, could have a devastating impact on the country’s fragile stability. The Secretary-General called on the authorities to reestablish law and order and to conduct a thorough investigation, with a view to ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights.

India

On 26 November, the city of Mumbai, India, was hit by a rash of shootings and blasts that killed and wounded a large number of people. In a statement issued the same day [SG/SM/11956], the Secretary-General condemned the attacks, reiterating his conviction that no cause or grievance could justify indiscriminate attacks against civilians. He called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice swiftly. Two
days later, the Security Council issued a press statement [SC/9513] calling for those responsible to be brought to justice and reiterating that all acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable. On 2 December [SG/SM/11976], the Secretary-General, after speaking with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, again expressed his sympathy to the families of the victims and reaffirmed his determination to play a lead role for the United Nations in dealing with that global menace.

The State Duma of the Russian Federation, in a 23 December statement [A/63/660-S/2008/811] transmitted to the Secretary-General, said that its members were appalled by that monstrous act directed against the people of India. They said that there could be no justification for atrocities of terrorist organizations, in whatever ethnic or religious guise. The counter-terrorist coalition of leading world powers should secure the unconditional implementation by all members of the international community of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Lebanon

On 29 September, a terrorist car bomb attack occurred in the Lebanese town of Tripoli, causing numerous deaths and injuries, including of members of the Lebanese Armed Forces. The following day [SC/9422], the Security Council condemned the attack, called for those responsible to be brought to justice, commended the Government’s commitment to do so, and called for international cooperation with the Government to that end.

On 11 September, the Secretary-General [SG/SM/11785] and the Security Council [SC/9444] condemned the attack that occurred the previous day in Lebanon, killing Saleh Aridi, a member of the Lebanese Democratic Party, and injuring several others. On 29 September [SG/SM/11840], the Secretary-General condemned the terrorist attack that took place that day in Tripoli, reportedly killing four people, including three members of the Lebanese Armed Forces. The Secretary-General was encouraged by the measures taken in recent weeks by the Lebanese to resume national dialogue and called upon them not to be deterred by the new attack.

Pakistan

On 2 June, a terrorist car bomb attack occurred outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, causing numerous deaths, injuries and damage to nearby buildings, including one housing UNDP. The attack was condemned that day by the Security Council President (see below) and the Secretary-General [SG/SM/11608].

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 2 June [meeting 5903], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRES/2008/19 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack that occurred outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad on 2 June 2008, causing numerous deaths, injuries and damage to nearby buildings, including a building housing the United Nations Development Programme. It expresses its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of this heinous act of terrorism and to their families, and to the people and Governments of Pakistan and Denmark.

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

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

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

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

Another terrorist suicide attack on 6 July in front of a police station near the Red Mosque in Islamabad caused numerous deaths and injuries among civilians and police personnel. The next day, a series of terrorist attacks in parts of Karachi caused multiple casualties. In a 7 July statement [SG/SM/11687], the Secretary-General condemned the attacks. He urged all political forces to unite against the scourge of terrorism. The Council, in an 8 July press statement [SC/9389], condemned the attacks in Islamabad and Karachi, and reiterated its concern at the threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaeda and illegal armed groups to peace and security in the region. The Council members reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the UN Charter, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and they reminded States that they had to ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism complied with all obligations under international law. A further two suicide attacks occurred in Wah Cantt, Pakistan, on 21 August, causing numerous deaths and injuries.
SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 August [meeting 5964], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2008/32 on behalf of Council members:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the twin suicide terrorist attacks that occurred in Wah Cantt, Pakistan, on 21 August 2008, causing numerous deaths and injuries. It expresses its deep sympathies and condolences to the victims of these heinous acts of terrorism and to their families, and to the people and Government of Pakistan.

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

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

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

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

On 20 September, a terrorist attack against the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad reportedly killed and injured a large number of people, including foreign diplomats. On the same day [SG/SM/11800], the Secretary-General deplored those outrageous acts of violence deliberately targeting innocent civilians and UN personnel. He stressed the neutrality of the United Nations, as well as humanitarian personnel, and urged all parties to support and facilitate the delivery of assistance to the Pakistani population.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 September [meeting 5978], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2008/35 on behalf of Council members:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack that occurred in Islamabad on 20 September 2008, causing numerous deaths and injuries, including among foreign diplomats. It expresses its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of this heinous act of terrorism and to their families, and to the people and Government of Pakistan.

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

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

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

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

Somalia

On 29 October, multiple bomb attacks occurred in the northern Somali towns of Boosasso and Hargeysa, where a suicide car bombing at the UNDP compound killed two UN staff and seriously injured six others, two of them critically. In a statement of the same date [SG/SM/11893], the Secretary-General deplored those outrageous acts of violence deliberately targeting innocent civilians and UN personnel. He stressed the neutrality of the United Nations, as well as humanitarian personnel, and urged all parties to support and facilitate the delivery of assistance to the Somali population.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 October [meeting 6009], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement S/PRST/2008/41 on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist suicide attacks that occurred in the towns of Hargeysa and Boosasso in Somalia on 29 October 2008. These heinous attacks, which caused numerous deaths and injuries and appear to have been coordinated, targeted the compound of the United Nations Development Programme and an Ethiopian Government office, as well as local government offices.

The Council expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and to their families, and to the people and authorities of Somalia and Ethiopia. It notes with appreciation that some of the victims are being treated at the French medical centre in Djibouti.

The Council commends United Nations personnel for their action on the ground in Somalia, in support of the Somali population.
The Council underlines the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolution 1373(2001) and consistent with resolution 1624(2005), to cooperate actively with the authorities of Somalia in this regard.

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

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

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

**Sri Lanka**

On 7 October, a suicide attack in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, wounded and killed scores of people, including retired army General Janaka Perera. The Secretary-General condemned the attack in a statement of the same day [SG/SM/11850] and expressed his condolences to the Government and people of Sri Lanka and sympathies to the victims and their families.

**Other incidents**

On 10 July [SC/9394], the Security Council condemned the terrorist attack on Turkish police protecting the United States Consulate in Istanbul on 9 July, causing death and injury to Turkish police personnel.

On 17 September [SC/9446], the Council condemned the terrorist attack that occurred at the entrance of the United States Embassy in Sana’a, Yemen, which caused the death of Yemeni security personnel, as well as numerous injuries.

On 24 September [SC/9455], the Council condemned terrorist attacks in Spain that caused death and injuries.

On 27 September [SC/9460], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, which caused numerous deaths and injuries.

On 12 December [SG/SM/12000], the Secretary-General condemned the bomb attack in Kirkuk, Iraq, which took the lives of many civilians, including children. He said that the attack was particularly troubling because it targeted a meeting to promote dialogue and reconciliation between different communities in the region. He called on the Iraqi people and their leaders not to be deterred by such acts.

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

In 2008, the United Nations strengthened its efforts to combat and eliminate international terrorism. The General Assembly, having considered the Secretary-General’s report [A/63/173 & Add.1] on measures to eliminate international terrorism, requested, in resolution 63/129 of 11 December (see p. 1441), the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to enhance UN capabilities in preventing terrorism, and recognized, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy [YUN 2006, p. 66] and Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism. In resolution 63/60 of 2 December (see p. 589), having considered the Secretary-General’s report on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction [A/63/153], the Assembly called upon Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring such weapons and their means of delivery.

**Communications.** On 27 February [A/62/711-S/2008/133], Turkey brought to the attention of the Secretary-General the judgement of the Antwerp Court of Appeals in Belgium, acquitting several members of the terrorist Revolutionary People’s Liberation Army-Front, which had perpetrated numerous violent acts in Turkey and other European countries. The Turkish authorities were exploring the possibility of appeal. Turkey believed that the conclusions of the Court contradicted the fundamental principles of the global fight against terrorism.

On 23 April [S/2008/296], the League of Arab States forwarded to the Secretary-General resolutions issued at the twentieth session of its Council, including one on ways of combating international terrorism, by which Arab States resolved to support UN counter-terrorism efforts and affirmed the continuation of Arab support to monitor implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

On 30 May [A/62/853-S/2008/358], the Russian Federation forwarded to the Secretary-General a communiqué on the outcome of the 15 May meeting of the Foreign Ministers of China, India and the Russian Federation, in which they affirmed that anti-terrorism
cooperation should be supported within both the UN system and regional organizations. They called upon all UN Member States to comply with international terrorism conventions and related protocols, as well as Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism. On the same date [A/62/854-S/2008/359], a joint communiqué of the 16 May meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation, in which they emphasized the importance of implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects and considered that UN Member States should take concerted efforts towards the speedy finalization under UN auspices of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

On 14 August [A/62/939-S/2008/567], Morocco forwarded to the Secretary-General the Rabat Declaration adopted by the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries (Rabat, Morocco, 12–16 May) on the implementation of international counter-terrorism instruments. The Conference adopted the Convention on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in Counter-Terrorism, which was annexed to the Declaration.

The Panama Declaration, adopted by Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru at the Second Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (Panama, 26–29 May) [A/62/947-S/2008/585] and transmitted to the Secretary-General on 15 August, called on UNODC and the Organization of American States General Secretariat to continue providing technical assistance to participating States for implementing universal counter-terrorism instruments, and UNODC, including the Terrorism Prevention Branch and its regional offices, to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in coordination with regional bodies.

On 23 October [A/63/507-S/2008/675], Iran protested the action taken by the United Kingdom, following a verdict by the British Court of Appeal on 7 May, to remove the name of the so-called “People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran”, which Iran described as a terrorist group, from Britain’s list of proscribed groups.

On 29 December [S/2008/833], the Philippines requested that the statement made by its representative at the Security Council’s 9 December meeting be circulated as a Council document. In the statement, the Philippines said that delays in the prosecution, trials and judgement of terrorists would send the wrong signal to them and their co-conspirators, and embolden them. It urged the United Nations to take action.

Counter-Terrorism Committee

CTC report on implementation of resolution 1624(2005)

In January [S/2008/29], the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], known as the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), submitted to the Security Council the Committee’s second report on the implementation of resolution 1624(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 102], which called on States to combat terrorism, including prohibiting by law and preventing incitement to commit terrorist acts. As at 16 July 2007, 88 States had reported to CTC on their implementation of the resolution. Of the 19 States reporting between 7 September 2006 and 16 July 2007, 10 had introduced legal provisions expressly criminalizing incitement, three had established terrorist acts as criminal offences and had introduced provisions criminalizing incitement to commit any offence, and four had no provisions specific to terrorist acts, although such acts generally fell under other criminal offences, to which general anti-incitement provisions applied. Two of those four States were in the process of drafting specific counter-terrorism legislation. Fewer than half of reporting States had expressly criminalized incitement, although most professed to address the problem through general criminal provisions.

The reports indicated that steps were taken to address other aspects of the resolution, including measures to deny safe haven, strengthen the security of international borders, promote dialogue and understanding among civilizations, and counter incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance. Many States described steps taken to ensure that their measures to implement the resolution complied with all obligations under international law. On the basis of the reports received from States and information gathered through visits, the Committee would explore the needs of States for technical assistance on all aspects of the resolution and would facilitate assistance.

CTC reports on implementation of resolution 1373(2001)

In 2008, the CTC Chairman submitted on 20 March and 18 July CTC’s work programmes for the periods from 1 January to 30 June [S/2008/187] and 1 July to 31 December [S/2008/471], respectively. CTC was assisted in its work by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

Report of CTED Executive Director (March). The Executive Director of CTED, reporting to the Council on 19 March [meeting 5855], said that, as re-
quested in resolution 1787(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 66], he had reviewed CTED’s organization and methods of work, in consultation with CTFC members, the UN membership, CTED staff, UN agencies and outside experts. The revised organizational plan [S/2008/80] was endorsed by CTFC on 24 January and was before the Council. Part of the review included general progress made in the implementation of resolution 1373(2001). The review was informed by three priorities: the consistency of judgements across various countries and regions; facilitation of technical assistance; and communication. There was a clear need to explain, particularly to the wider UN membership, CTFC work and how it could help countries confront terrorism. The principal organizational change to CTED was the establishment, within the Assessment and Technical Assistance Office, of five cross-cutting functional groups in the areas of technical assistance; terrorist financing; border control, arms trafficking and law enforcement; general legal issues; and issues raised by resolution 1624(2005), as well as the human rights aspects of counter-terrorism. Additionally, two smaller units were created: a quality control unit to review CTED documents and to ensure that they were consistent in style and format; and a communications and outreach unit to develop more proactive communications strategies. Regarding methods of work, the revised organizational plan suggested several innovations: a more flexible approach to country visits to allow for focused visits tailored to the situation of the country concerned; a more comprehensive engagement with donors to better match their capabilities with the vulnerabilities identified in CTFC dialogue with countries; more active involvement by CTED in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force; and strengthened collaboration and cooperation with the experts of the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 265] and 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544]. The report also highlighted the usefulness of strengthened relations with international, regional and subregional organizations.

The Director was confident that implementing those changes in CTED structure and work would improve its credibility and usefulness. He pointed to two significant Directorate activities: the finalization of the Preliminary Implementation Assessments (PIAs), one for each Member State, on the implementation of resolution 1373(2001)—some 160 of which had been adopted by the Committee and sent to the capitals of the States concerned; and the finalization of the revised “Survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373(2001)”, which examined the progress of counter-terrorism efforts in all regions and subregions, difficulties encountered and gaps and vulnerabilities to be addressed.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 March [meeting 5856], the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1805(2008). The draft [S/2008/182] was submitted by Belgium, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Italy, Panama, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and remaining determined to contribute further to enhancing the effectiveness of the overall effort to fight this scourge on a global level,

Recalling its resolution 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, pursuant to which it established the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and recalling also its other resolutions concerning threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 1535(2004) of 26 March 2004 and 1787(2007) of 10 December 2007, which pertain to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate,

Recalling its previous reviews of the Executive Directorate contained in the statements by its President of 21 December 2005 and 20 December 2006, and reaffirming its conclusions contained therein,

Welcoming the revised organizational plan for the Executive Directorate submitted by its Executive Director and the recommendations contained therein,

Noting with appreciation the emphasis by the Executive Directorate on the guiding principles of cooperation, transparency and even-handedness, and its stated intention to adopt a more proactive communications strategy,

Underscoring the central role of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism, and welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006 and the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, and should adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and recalling that the Executive Directorate should continue, in accordance with its mandate, to advise the Counter-Terrorism Committee on issues relating to such law in connection with the identification and implementation of effective measures to implement resolution 1373(2001) and resolution 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005,

1. Underlines that the overarching goal of the Counter-Terrorism Committee is to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1373(2001), and recalls the crucial role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in supporting the Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate;
2. **Decides** that the Executive Directorate shall continue to operate as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the period ending 31 December 2010, and further decides to conduct an interim review by 30 June 2009 and a comprehensive consideration of the work of the Executive Directorate prior to the expiration of its mandate;

3. **Welcomes and affirms** the endorsement by the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the recommendations contained in the revised organizational plan for the Executive Directorate;

4. **Urges** the Executive Directorate to continue strengthening its role in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) aimed at increasing the capabilities of Member States in the fight against terrorism by addressing their counter-terrorism needs;

5. **Stresses** the importance of a tailored dialogue among the Executive Directorate, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and Member States, including for the development of relevant implementation strategies by Member States, and encourages the Committee and the Executive Directorate to arrange meetings with Member States in various formats;

6. **Urges** the Executive Directorate also to intensify cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations with a view to enhancing the capacity of Member States to fully implement resolution 1373(2001) and to facilitate the provision of technical assistance;

7. **Encourages** the Executive Directorate to continue providing the necessary support for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with Member States towards comprehensive implementation of resolution 1624(2005), as set out in paragraph 6 of that resolution;

8. **Welcomes** the briefing by the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate, looks forward to the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373(2001), and directs the Counter-Terrorism Committee to submit an annual report on the implementation of the present resolution, with its observations and recommendations;

9. **Requests** the Counter-Terrorism Committee, in addition to the report requested in paragraph 8 above, to report orally, through its Chairman, at least every one hundred and eighty days to the Security Council on the overall work of the Committee and the Executive Directorate, and, as appropriate, in conjunction with the reports by the Chairmen of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), and encourages informal briefings for all interested Member States;

10. **Reiterates** the need to enhance ongoing cooperation among the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), as well as their respective groups of experts, including through, as appropriate, enhanced information-sharing, coordinated visits to countries, technical assistance and other issues of relevance to all three Committees, and expresses its intention to provide guidance to the Committees on areas of common interest in order better to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts;

11. **Welcomes and emphasizes** the importance of the readiness of the Executive Directorate to participate actively in and support all relevant activities under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force established to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

**Report of CTC Chairman (May).** On 6 May [meeting 5886], the CTC Chairman, in his briefing to the Council, said that the three subsidiary bodies of the Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999), 1373(2001) and 1540(2004) had continued to jointly implement their common strategy through ongoing cooperation, mostly through their expert groups. He reported on the two major initiatives of CTC’s work: the adoption of the new CTED organizational plan by the Council in March (see above) and the adoption of PIAs aimed at intensifying dialogue with Member States on implementing resolution 1373(2001). To date, the Committee had adopted 167 of the 192 PIAs. The Committee also adopted its work programme for 1 January to 30 June. Within the first category of its activities, implementation of resolution 1373(2001), besides adopting the PIAs, CTC commenced consideration of the revised survey of Member States’ implementation of that resolution. The survey examined the implementation of counter-terrorism efforts in all regions and subregions, pinpointed areas for further improvements and identified shortfalls and vulnerabilities that needed to be addressed either regionally or globally. CTC organized visits to Member States, a fundamental component in monitoring and promoting implementation of resolution 1373(2001), allowing CTED to gain firsthand experience on the ground. The Committee had concluded on-site visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Niger and Saudi Arabia, and was currently visiting Cambodia, to be followed by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. The visits resulted in a comprehensive assessment of all counter-terrorism measures, enhancing the Committee’s understanding of the counter-terrorism measures in place, including challenges, best practices and technical assistance needs or programmes, and strengthening its cooperation with other international organizations.

Regarding the facilitation of technical assistance, CTC and CTED were engaged in dialogue with Member States. CTED reviewed strategies and mechanisms for facilitating technical assistance, with a view to strengthening the Committee’s contribution and recording its impact. Its future challenge would be to devise more creative approaches so that the Committee, through CTED, could exercise its brokering role as effectively as possible. The Committee posted on its website the technical assistance matrix to help donors guide their assist-
Committee and Committee levels. That process had already
stocktaking of each Member State’s implementation
Committee endorsed a proposal for conducting the
Member States to respond to pias had expired, the
so far adopted 188 of them. As the first deadlines for
recommendations for the Committee’s future action.
The Committee continued to analyse pias, and had
explored the technical assistance needs of States for
implementation, and to facilitate provision of such
assistance, while encouraging States that had not yet
reported to do so. The Committee continued to play
its part in implementing the United Nations Global
Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and cted was participat-
ing in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implemen-
tation Task Force. The Committee continued to
cooperate with other parts of the UN system, and in
particular with the two other Security Council com-
mittees dealing with counter-terrorism.

Report of CTC Chairman (June). In June
[S/2008/379], the ctc Chairman, in accordance with
Council resolution 1805(2008) (see p. 71), submitted
the ctc report on the survey of the implementation
of resolution 1373(2001). The purpose for the survey
was to present current trends in implementing the
resolution, with a view to identifying regional vul-
nerable areas or regions where groups of States were fac-
ing particular implementation difficulties and might
benefit from a regional or subregional approach to ter-
rorism. The survey focused on the areas addressed by
the resolution, notably counter-terrorism legislation
and policies pertaining to counter-terrorist financing,
border control, law enforcement, international coop-
eration and the protection of human rights. It also
assessed implementation of the resolution by regions
and subregions, and drew conclusions about global
progress in key thematic areas.

Report of CTC Chairman (November). On 12
November [meeting 6015], the ctc Chairman, in his
briefing to the Security Council, reported that since
his June briefing, ctc had accomplished several key
initiatives. In May, it adopted a document entitled
“Survey of the implementation of Security Council
resolution 1373(2001)” (see p. 72), which it submit-
ted to the Council. The report, prepared on the basis
of evaluations contained in pias, contained priority
recommendations for the Committee’s future action.
The Committee continued to analyse pias, and had
so far adopted 188 of them. As the first deadlines for
Member States to respond to pias had expired, the
Committee endorsed a proposal for conducting the
stocktaking of each Member State’s implementation
of resolution 1373(2001). That process had already
started and would be carried out in stages at the sub-
committee and Committee levels.

The cted reorganization plan (see p. 71) estab-
lished five cross-cutting technical working groups,
covering major areas of implementation of resolution
1373(2001), as well as implementation of resolution
1624(2005). The groups presented to the Committee
the first results of their work, aimed at revising and
harmonizing criteria for technical judgements of ele-
ments of resolution 1373(2001), and were completing
document to assist cted in that task. The Committee
continued organizing visits to Member States to
monitor and promote implementation of resolution
1373(2001), and had concluded on-site visits to Cam-
odia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, South
Africa and Egypt, and a focused visit to Madagascar.
It was also engaged in a follow-up visit to Kenya,
to be followed by visits to Uganda and the United
Kingdom. The Committee approved a new list of vis-
its for the period ending 2010. Member States to be
visited would be invited to meet with ctc members
informally to present their views on the visit and its
outcome before finalization of the report.

The Committee reminded Member States to ensure
that any measures taken to combat terrorism should
comply with international obligations. The Commit-
tee explored the technical assistance needs of States
to implement resolution 1624(2005), and how to
facilitate the provision of such assistance. It encour-
aged those States that had not yet reported to do so.
It also encouraged Member States to become party to
and implement the 16 international counter-terrorism
instruments, and to play their part in implementing
the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strat-
egy, including participation in the Counter-Terrorism
Implementation Task Force.

Reports of States. Between February and July, the
ctc Chairman transmitted to the Council President
reports submitted by Member States on action they
had taken or planned to take to implement resolu-
tions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005), and letters from
the Committee requesting follow-up information

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Extension of CTED mandate. On 20 March,
the Security Council, in resolution 1805(2008) (see
p. 71), extended the cted mandate until 31 December
2010, and asked it to conduct a review by 30 June
2009 and a comprehensive consideration of its work
prior to the expiration of its mandate.

Appointment of CTED Executive Director. On 13 November [S/2008/711], the Secretary-General
informed the Security Council President of his inten-
tion to extend the appointment of Mike Smith (Aus-
tralia) as cted Executive Director until 31 December
2009. The Council approved the appointment on
17 November [S/2008/712].
IAEA action

The General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, at its fifty-second session (Vienna, 29 September–4 October), adopted resolution GC(52)/RES/10 on measures to protect against nuclear terrorism, in which it called upon Member States to provide political, financial and technical support, including in-kind contributions, to improve nuclear and radiological security and prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism, and to provide the Nuclear Security Fund the political and—on a voluntary basis—financial support it needed, in a manner which enabled flexibility.

Peacekeeping operations

In 2008, United Nations peacekeeping reached the milestone of its sixtieth anniversary. To commemorate that event, the General Assembly held a special session on 7 November, at which it adopted a Declaration paying tribute to those who had given their lives in the service of humankind.

During the year, the Assembly and the Security Council continued to oversee the management and operation of UN peacekeeping missions. The Council addressed key issues pertaining to the overall conduct of those operations, reviewed the individual mandates of several ongoing operations and created new ones to deal with new security concerns. The Assembly took action on a number of financial and administrative matters.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) continued to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, whose mandate was to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all its aspects.

Sixtieth anniversary of UN peacekeeping

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session (New York, 10 March–4 April and 3 July) [A/62/19], recommended to the General Assembly that it hold a commemorative meeting during its sixty-third (2008) session for the sixtieth anniversary of peacekeeping. The Special Committee recommended a draft declaration for adoption by the Assembly.

On 7 November [meeting 41], the General Assembly held the commemorative meeting. The Assembly President said that current peacekeeping operations—all 20 of them, requiring more than 110,000 personnel—were characterized by their unprecedented scale and complexity. They remained a key measure of the ability of the United Nations to meet its Charter mandate and the expectations of the world’s peoples. The annual UN peacekeeping budget was approximately $5.6 billion, representing one half of 1 per cent of global military spending. Because a peacekeeping mandate was not specifically spelled out in the Charter, that work had to evolve through innovative partnerships nurtured by different UN organs. Noting the interaction among different areas of UN responsibilities, he said that the Security Council, the Assembly and the Secretariat enjoyed a close partnership that had grown and responded to ever-changing circumstances over the decades. The broad-based participation had helped to assure the credibility of each intervention. The principles of neutrality, transparency and universality gave them legitimacy and should be defended by all. The restructuring of peacekeeping operations, arising from catastrophic failures in the 1990s and highlighted in the groundbreaking report of the Chairman of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi report) [YUN 2000, p. 83], should enhance the UN ability to identify, coordinate and sustain increasingly complex operations. The Assembly had the responsibility to ensure that operations were equipped with the tools needed to fulfill their mandates, but, almost without exception, they were still being sent into harm’s way with insufficient resources. Troop-contributing countries should have more of a say in determining the resources required to minimize the risk and maximize the chances of success of the operations where their troops were sent. Troop-contributing countries also should be involved at the earliest stage when the Security Council mandated an operation, and in any changes in that mandate. That closer involvement would create more reality checks to ensure that operations were well conceived and administered from the outset.

The Deputy Secretary-General recalled that, sixty years earlier, the Council had dispatched a small group of international military observers to the Middle East to supervise an uneasy ceasefire between the new State of Israel and its neighbours. That first peacekeeping mission was an experiment that the founders of the United Nations had not foreseen. The model proved to be a great success. Peacekeeping had evolved into one of the cornerstones of international diplomacy. Currently, there were more than 100,000 UN peacekeepers deployed in 18 missions across the globe. That scale was unprecedented. Peacekeeping operations had also evolved to meet the changing nature of conflict. Beyond monitoring ceasefires, peacekeepers had wide-ranging mandates: helping post-conflict societies to rebuild; nurturing democratic governance; protecting civilians; disarming ex-combatants; supervising elections; and strengthening institutions. The evolution of peacekeeping did not come without cost. Peacekeepers operated in some of the most austere
and challenging environments. Peacekeepers needed clear and achievable mandates, political will and material resources. The Deputy Secretary-General asked the Assembly to pay tribute to the more than 2,500 peacekeepers and other personnel who had given their lives while serving the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 November [meeting 41], the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/16 [draft: A/63/L.16 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 31].

Sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping

The General Assembly
Adopts the Declaration on the Occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

ANNEX

Declaration on the Occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping

We, the States Members of the United Nations, recall with pride the awarding of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peacekeeping forces. Today, peacekeeping is the flagship activity of the United Nations, helping to restore peace and stability and bringing hope to millions of people in various regions around the world affected by conflicts. We pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who, in the past sixty years, have served under the United Nations flag in more than sixty peacekeeping operations around the world, and we honour the memory of more than 2,400 United Nations peacekeepers who gave their lives in the cause of peace. We also commend the efforts made by United Nations and related personnel who are currently performing their duties in peacekeeping operations.

We reiterate our strong support for all measures undertaken to effectively promote the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. We, the States Members of the United Nations, reaffirm our commitment and willingness to provide full support to United Nations peacekeepers, to ensure that they are able to successfully and safely fulfil the tasks entrusted to them.

General aspects of UN peacekeeping

Strengthening operational capacity

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session (New York, 10 March–4 April and 3 July) [A/62/19], stated that there should be adequate capabilities and clear guidelines for peacekeeping missions to carry out their mandated tasks. The Special Committee welcomed the establishment of the post of the Military Adviser at the Assistant Secretary-General level, and requested the Secretary-General to appoint the Adviser urgently. He should also ensure that the military function within DPKO was appropriately and adequately staffed and structured. That matter should be considered in conjunction with reviews of the organization of DPKO and the Department of Field Support (DFS) to avoid duplication and maximize capacity. The Special Committee urged transparency in the recruitment of staff for senior positions in the Office of Military Affairs. The Secretariat should study and review, in consultation with troop-contributing countries, the requirements for generating military police units and personnel from countries providing troops to a mission.

The Special Committee noted the incorporation of the Police Division in the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, and reaffirmed its support for the inclusion of the Police Adviser as a permanent member of the DPKO senior management team. It looked forward to receiving by July the report on the review of all aspects of the Standing Police Capacity’s first year of operation. It noted the Secretariat’s intention to relocate the Standing Police Capacity to the UN Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and looked forward to the consideration of that matter by the General Assembly’s Fifth Committee. Recognizing the need to recruit qualified personnel for police components of UN peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee encouraged the Secretariat to improve recruitment procedures and guidance.

To overcome the contingent-owned equipment and sustainability shortfalls faced by some troop-contributing countries, the Special Committee recommended that DPKO and DFS continue to facilitate enabling arrangements, including through other Member States and bilateral arrangements.

Concerning the need for enhanced, rapidly deployable capacities for UN peacekeeping missions in crisis, the Special Committee decided to reconvene its informal open-ended working group on those capacities to prepare a comprehensive report on feasible options for consideration by the Special Committee at its next substantive session.

The Special Committee reiterated the need for the full implementation of the integrated mission planning process and called for periodic briefings by the Secretariat on the status of the implementation. The integrated mission planning process guidelines should be completed as quickly as possible, and the Secretary-General should designate a high-ranking official to oversee and steer the process.

The Special Committee noted the change in subordination of the Situation Centre. It recognized that several divisions and sections of DPKO and DFS might need seconded military and police expertise to increase efficiency and improve communication be-
tween the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and field missions. The Special Committee noted the internal publication entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations: principles and guidelines”, bearing in mind that it did not create legal obligations for Member States or their contingents. It believed that further work on the publication should take into account the views of Member States, best practices and lessons learned in the field and be done in an inclusive and transparent manner.

**Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations**

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], stressed that the UN system and the international community, in particular donor countries, in cooperation with national authorities, should develop and engage in coordination systems focused on immediate needs, as well as long-term reconstruction and poverty reduction. It recognized that better coordination with UN country teams and development actors was important in ensuring greater efficiency in development efforts and addressing urgent development problems.

The Special Committee recognized the specific needs of children in armed conflict, which should be taken into account in peace negotiations and peace arrangements. It recommended the inclusion of specific child protection provisions in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and the deployment of child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations. DPKO should elaborate the role and responsibilities of the advisers within peacekeeping missions and outline modalities for cooperation with UN agencies, funds and programmes, to ensure a comprehensive strategy of prevention and response with respect to violence against children. The Special Committee recommended the designation of a focal point in DPKO to liaise with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children in order to further the action of peacekeeping in the area of child protection.

The Special Committee urged the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries to continue harmonizing predeployment awareness programmes and applying UN guidelines on medical clearance and medical conditions that precluded deployment. It recommended that full use be made of opportunities for adequately resourced peer education training programmes. The Special Committee commended outreach efforts by peacekeeping operations, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to raise awareness among host communities, and the collaborative efforts to integrate HIV issues in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

**Safety and security**

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], expressed grave concern at the security environment in many peacekeeping missions. It stated that the liaison arrangements of UN field operations, which were to maintain contact with the parties, should be improved at appropriate levels, especially tactical and operational levels, so as to establish effective immediate responses to safety and security issues. Some troops were being stretched to cover geographic areas that exceeded their capacities, which threatened their security and adversely affected their performance, discipline, and command and control. It called upon DPKO to ensure that UN peacekeeping personnel were deployed in accordance with agreed concepts of operation.

The Special Committee expressed concern over the quality of local security personnel and its possible impact on the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. It requested DPKO and the Department of Safety and Security to improve the quality of those personnel and to present a policy for screening and verification before hiring. The Special Committee underscored the importance of assuring that all military and police officers deployed in UN peacekeeping missions were under UN security arrangements, including the UN security management system. It requested the Secretariat to report on steps taken to address the issue.

The Special Committee requested DPKO to report before its next session on the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies in UN peacekeeping operations, and the Secretariat to develop modalities for their use with due attention to legal, operational, technical and financial considerations, as well as the consent of the countries concerned with regard to their application in the field.

The Special Committee welcomed the Secretariat’s steps to analyse the factors and circumstances contributing to fatalities of UN peacekeeping personnel. It recommended that the Secretariat improve the collection and processing of data from field missions to allow for more thorough analysis of fatalities and serious injuries, and report annually to Member States. The Special Committee stressed the need for the Secretariat to improve relevant policies and procedures to enhance the mechanism for managing crisis situations in peacekeeping operations in a well-coordinated and effective manner. It requested the Secretariat to develop security procedures with regard to setting up UN positions in peacekeeping missions.
Conduct and discipline

Report of Secretary-General. In March [A/62/758], the Secretary-General, responding to section XVI of General Assembly resolution 61/276 [YUN 2007, p. 83] on peacekeeping issues, submitted a comprehensive report on conduct and discipline, including justification of all posts. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its resumed 2005 session [YUN 2005, p. 120], had adopted the framework for a comprehensive strategy to address sexual exploitation and abuse and other forms of serious misconduct in peacekeeping missions. The strategy was intended to address and eliminate all forms of misconduct in peacekeeping missions, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse, by taking measures aimed at: enforcement action in cases of reported misconduct; provision of assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse; and prevention of misconduct. To enable action in relation to each of the three elements, Member States showed commitment to implementing systemic changes relating to the fundamental paradigm that governed such action. The Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters and those Units in peacekeeping missions had been, since their establishment in 2005, the focal point in DPKO, DFS and the missions for the progressive implementation of the comprehensive strategy to address sexual exploitation and abuse. The report reviewed the functions assigned to the Units, the extent to which their performance of those functions had assisted in implementing the strategy, and elements of the strategy. In addition, a set of operational functions resulting from the strategy was identified, the successful performance of which was dependent on adequate personnel capacity.

While the Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters had made progress in the development of a regulatory framework, new guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures were required to address policies recently adopted and changes in implementation modalities of some processes. None of the special political missions had a Conduct and Discipline Unit per se, but had single Conduct and Discipline Officers, since those missions were small in number of personnel and usually lacked police or military components. All Conduct and Discipline Units had international and national support staff to assist in database management, translation of documents, and provision of administrative and logistical support.

The functions performed by the Units at Headquarters and in the field reflected on their role as mechanisms for internal oversight of conduct, discipline and accountability within DPKO/DFS and peacekeeping missions. Their presence and performance of those functions had contributed to the Organization’s progress in establishing aspects of a framework of operational policies and procedures that made for coherent and effective responses to misconduct by peacekeepers. Progress had been made to bring about systemic changes, such as revisions to the model memorandum of understanding and victim assistance strategy. While involved in deliberations for strengthening the criminal accountability of UN personnel, legislative bodies were set to consider a framework for providing minimum levels of welfare and recreation facilities to all categories of peacekeeping personnel and adopt a common code of conduct. At the operational level, the establishment of Conduct and Discipline Units was a distinct improvement on former arrangements, which were fragmented and ad hoc. Those Units, as mechanisms for internal monitoring of conduct and discipline answering to heads of mission and DPKO/DFS, had enhanced the ability of heads of mission to take a “holistic approach” to issues of misconduct, and effectively discharge their disciplinary responsibilities. In peacekeeping missions, the more vigorous, coherent and consistent operational activity in disciplinary matters since 2005 had begun to show some signs of improvement. A comparative review of the available records on the total annual number of reports alleging sexual exploitation and abuse suggested that the strategy might be beginning to bear fruit.

The report provided justification of staffing levels, functions, and their impact on conduct and discipline for the Conduct and Discipline Units at Headquarters and in the field. It proposed converting into posts all general temporary assistance positions at Headquarters and in the field for the 2008–2009 budget period, as the functions performed were ongoing and fully integrated into the mandate and operations of DPKO/DFS and the missions, and not temporary in nature. It also proposed the use of uniform nomenclature, (i.e. “Conduct and Discipline Units”).

Pending consideration by the Assembly of those suggestions, the proposed 2008–2009 peacekeeping operations support account budget and individual peacekeeping operations budgets included conduct and discipline staffing requirements. Should the Assembly approve the conversion of all conduct and discipline general temporary assistance positions to posts, there would be no financial implications for 2008–2009 for the peacekeeping operations support account or individual peacekeeping missions.

The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report and approve the conversion of posts for 2008–2009, as well as uniform nomenclature.

The Assembly, by decision 62/545 C of 20 June, deferred until its sixty-third (2008) session the agenda item “Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on conduct and discipline, including full justification of all posts”.
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations consideration. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], affirmed that any kind of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel was detrimental to the missions and the Organization’s image, and had adverse effects on the population of host countries. All peacekeeping personnel had to adhere to all applicable UN rules, regulations, provisions and guidelines for peacekeepers, as well as to national laws and regulations. All acts of misconduct should be investigated and punished in accordance with due process of law, as well as with memorandums of understanding concluded between the United Nations and Member States. The Special Committee requested that the United Nations take appropriate measures to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of any UN peacekeeping mission or troop-contributing country or UN peacekeeping personnel, and ensure that steps were taken to restore their image and credibility when allegations of misconduct were found to be legally unproven. The Special Committee welcomed the finalization of the revised model memorandum of understanding [YUN 2007, p. 69] and urged its implementation by the Secretariat in respect of existing and new memorandums of understanding.

The Special Committee noted the Secretary-General’s 2007 report on strengthening investigations [ibid., p. 1473] and looked forward to the outcome of the Assembly deliberations on it. It noted the Secretary-General’s report on the comprehensive review of the welfare and recreation needs of all categories of peacekeeping personnel [A/62/663] (see p. 100), and requested a further report on the matter, detailing the implications of the proposals. The Special Committee was concerned at the delays in housing peacekeeping personnel in appropriate accommodations with adequate protection against the elements, and requested the Secretariat to improve the situation pursuant to the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual.

Sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations

OIOS report. In a February report on peacekeeping operations in 2007 [A/62/281 (Part II & Add.1)], OIOS reported a 64 per cent decrease over 2006 in allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. While the numbers still underscored the need for strengthening efforts to prevent misconduct, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse, the decline in allegations reflected positively on the Organization’s efforts, following the report of the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel on a comprehensive strategy to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations [YUN 2005, p. 119].

Many variables contributed to an environment conducive to behaviour specifically discouraged under the Secretary-General’s bulletin [ST/SGB/2003/13] on sexual exploitation and abuse [YUN 2004, p. 107] and other misconduct. Therefore, while progress was being made, because of the complex and evolving nature of the environment in which the Organization operated, there was no guarantee that status quo efforts would lead to a further decline in misconduct. Any allegation of misconduct, regardless of the type, was an allegation that might adversely impact the credibility and reputation of the Organization and hence its ability to discharge its mandate. For its part, OIOS, in its 2007 report on strengthening investigations [YUN 2007, p. 1473], highlighted proposals for restructuring and strengthening its investigation function to better meet the demand for investigations.

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in a June report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse [A/62/890], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 57/306 [YUN 2003, p. 1237], indicated that 127 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving UN personnel were reported to OIOS in 2007, a substantial decrease from the 357 cases reported in 2006. The highest number of allegations reported (59) originated at the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, down from the 176 cases reported in 2006.

As at 31 December, investigations of allegations made in 2007 involving 136 UN peacekeeping personnel were completed. Of the 118 investigations of allegations involving military personnel, 113 were determined to be substantiated and 5 unsubstantiated. One Member State reported ongoing criminal proceedings following the repatriation of 111 military personnel, while three others reported action taken against 21 military personnel, comprising three dismissals from service, six reprimands, seven imprisonments, one reduction in rank and imprisonment, and four dismissals from service and imprisonment.

Investigations of allegations involving nine civilian personnel determined six to be substantiated and three unsubstantiated. Investigations of allegations were conducted involving nine police and corrections personnel, two of which were determined to be substantiated and seven unsubstantiated.

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations consideration. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], called on the United Nations to continue to implement its policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations. Underlining the importance of eliminating all forms of misconduct, the Special Committee remained concerned about new cases of misconduct reported.
including sexual exploitation and abuse, and about the number of outstanding allegations still awaiting investigation, and encouraged continued efforts to address that backlog, in accordance with the provisions of the new model memorandum of understanding. It welcomed progress made towards the elimination and prevention of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and noted that oics had reported a decrease in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse it had received (see p. 78). It suggested that such data should be disaggregated according to type of misconduct alleged. It welcomed the Assembly’s adoption of the strategy on assistance to victims of sexual exploitation by UN personnel [YUN 2007, p. 1519].

Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], expressed the view that the relationship between those who planned, mandated and managed UN peacekeeping operations and those who implemented the operations’ mandates should be enhanced. Troop-contributing countries, through their experience and expertise, could contribute to the planning process and assist the Security Council in making effective and timely decisions. It called upon the Secretariat to improve information-sharing with troop-contributing countries and to ensure that the Secretary-General’s reports on specific operations were circulated to those countries in time for holding meetings with them before discussions among Council members. It encouraged all troop-contributing countries to participate in meetings with the Council and the Secretariat in order to achieve meaningful outcomes, and underscored the importance of better interaction between the Council’s Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries, so that the experience and expertise of those countries could be drawn upon when implementing and extending peacekeeping mandates. It encouraged the Working Group to implement the recommendations contained in its 2006 report [YUN 2006, p. 86].

The Special Committee urged the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries when planning changes in the tasks, rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure that impacted the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, in order to enable them to give advice in the planning process and to ensure that their troops had the capacity to meet the new demands. The Secretariat should also consult with those countries when planning a drawdown of troops in any peacekeeping operation. The drawdown should take place only after consideration of inputs from the troop-contributing countries and bearing in mind the situation on the ground. Existing procedures for interaction between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Council should be used to their fullest extent.

The Special Committee recognized progress by the Secretariat in increasing cooperation and consultations with troop-contributing countries and looked forward to continued and improved cooperation, including easy access to briefing material in written form. It requested the Secretariat to produce predeployment threat assessments and share them with potential troop-contributing countries. It also recognized the possible benefit from potential troop-contributing countries making reconnaissance visits to new missions before presenting their pledges to those missions, and the need for more cooperation in that regard between dpko, dfs and the Department of Safety and Security, and more interactions with potential troop-contributing countries from the early stages of planning.

Cooperation with regional organizations

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], noted the Secretariat’s establishment of a capacity for partnerships, other than that dedicated to the African Union, to serve as a coordination point for all issues relating to peacekeeping operations. The Committee believed that the new capacity could avoid duplication or competition of efforts among multilateral partners engaged in matters relating to peacekeeping operations. The Committee believed that the new capacity could avoid duplication or competition of efforts among multilateral institutions. It looked forward to continued dialogue with the Secretariat on making the best use of the possibilities for employing regional arrangements’ capacities under appropriate circumstances, as envisaged in the 2005 World Summit Outcome [YUN 2005, p. 49]. It reiterated its support for the Secretary-General’s proposal to implement modalities for operational cooperation in peacekeeping within regional arrangements.

Women in peacekeeping

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], encouraged dpko to support local women’s peace initiatives and the involvement of women and women’s groups in all activities related to the peace process and conflict resolution. In that regard, it recognized the importance of gender advisers to UN missions. The Special Committee underlined the gravity of all acts
of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and stressed the importance of addressing the needs of all victims of such acts. It emphasized the need for regular training of UN staff and related personnel in gender-sensitive approaches in the context of their responsibilities and mandate, and for responding to cases of sexual and gender-based violence in a culturally sensitive manner and the deployment of UN gender advisers to missions. The Special Committee noted the continuing under-representation of women at senior management levels and among uniformed personnel in peacekeeping missions. It urged DPKO to develop a comprehensive strategy for increasing women’s participation in all aspects and at all levels of UN peacekeeping operations, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/164 on the improvement of the status of women in the UN system [YUN 2004, p. 1429] and Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women and peace and security [YUN 2000, p. 1113].

Communication. On 16 June [S/2008/402], the United Kingdom transmitted to the Council President the summary report of the Wilton Park conference on “Women targeted or affected by armed conflict: what role for military peacekeepers”, organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict and DPKO, with the assistance of Canada and the United Kingdom.

On 19 June, the Security Council, in resolution 1820(2008) (see p. 1265), expressed concern about the persistent obstacles and challenges to the participation and full involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict as a result of violence, intimidation and discrimination, which eroded women’s capacity and legitimacy to participate in post-conflict public life. It urged the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys to invite women to participate in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and encouraged all parties to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at decision-making levels.

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in his September report on women and peace and security [S/2008/622] (see also p. 1264), stated that, as at July 2008, women constituted 2.2 per cent of military personnel in UN peacekeeping operations compared to 1 per cent in July 2004, and 7.6 per cent of civilian police personnel compared to 5 per cent in 2004. In those settings where peacekeeping missions were supporting the restructuring of police services (Kosovo, Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone), women civilian police represented more than 15 per cent. As at 30 June 2008, women’s representation in DPKO in civilian posts in the Professional and higher categories reached 28.6 per cent, and 26.3 per cent at the D-1 level and above, up from 27.5 and 12 per cent respectively in 2004. In Dfs, women accounted for 36.4 per cent of all Professional and higher-level personnel. In field-based operations, women’s representation accounted for 23 per cent. The Secretary-General had stepped up efforts to increase the number of women in peacekeeping, in particular at the senior leadership level. As at September 2008, there was one woman Head of Mission (Liberia) and seven Deputy Heads of Mission (Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, the Sudan).

The Secretary-General stated that the deployment of women in peacekeeping forces, in police forces and among civilian personnel facilitated engagement with local women, enhanced their access to social and psychological services, including trauma counselling, information-sharing on sexual harassment, abuse and rape, and lowered the incidence of sexual violence and abuse, particularly in camps of internally displaced persons and refugees. Member States endeavoured to enlarge the pool of qualified women eligible for secondment to peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions. Training of military police and civilian peacekeeping personnel on the protection, rights and particular needs of women, as well as the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping functions, received attention from Member States, the United Nations and civil society. DPKO led UN efforts to provide training and improve training materials and tools. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women developed an interactive website highlighting gender training opportunities for UN peacekeepers. Thirteen full-time gender advisers in UN peacekeeping operations, including integrated missions, provided technical guidance to heads of mission to increase women’s participation in implementing the operation’s mandate. Five missions had a gender focal point, a staff member who had the gender portfolio in addition to other tasks. DPKO developed guidelines to ensure that gender advisers were serving as catalysts for gender mainstreaming. The United Nations Volunteers programme increased the number of gender specialists from 3 in 2004 to 19 in 2008. Dfs and DPKO increased the representation of women among UN uniformed personnel, including by strengthening their outreach to Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries.

In statement S/PRST/2008/39 of 29 October (see p. 1264), the Council President said that the Council remained concerned about the under-representation of women at all stages of peace processes and in peacebuilding, and called upon the Secretary-General to appoint more women to pursue good offices on his behalf, particularly as Special Representatives and Special Envoys. It urged Member States and interna-
tional, regional and subregional organizations to take measures to increase women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and to strengthen the role of women as decision makers in those areas. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report on the obstacles and challenges to strengthening the participation of women in those areas, including recommendations to address those issues, by October 2009.

Oversight activities

Otos reported in February [A/62/281 (Part II)] on its peacekeeping oversight activities from 1 January to 31 December 2007. The Office issued 154 oversight reports related to peace operations, which accounted for 54 per cent of all otos recommendations. The recommendations highlighted four risk areas: governance, compliance, and financial and operational risks. While overall resources dedicated to peace operations remained at a similar level in 2007 as the year before, a new otos presence was established in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, while the presence of the Office in the United Nations Operation in Burundi (onub) was phased out. Otos also expanded its presence in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (monuc). The scope of otos audits varied widely from relatively routine to complex global or horizontal audits in areas such as fuel management, procurement and management, and direction of special political missions. During the reporting period, the resident audit offices conducted comprehensive risk assessments of mission activities, which would serve as the basis for the 2008 Internal Audit Division audit workplan.

In 2007, the otos Investigations Division received 469 allegations pertaining to staff involved in peace operations, comprising 65 per cent of all allegations received by the Division that year. In total, 87 investigation reports were issued in 2007.

In the area of governance risk, otos assessed impact on mission operations arising from failure to inform, direct, manage and monitor UN activities. An audit of occupational safety and health in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (unmil) found that dpko needed to work with the Department of Safety and Security to develop guidelines for the occupational safety and health of civilian personnel in that Mission. The lack of direction provided to the Mission resulted in fragmentation of safety and health programmes. Overall, unmil programmes did not meet international standards, nor did they adequately mitigate occupational safety and health risks. As a result, personnel were exposed to high risk of accidents and health problems that could have been averted by meeting minimum standards. In an audit of unifil, otos found that the Mission needed to formulate indicators of achievement and performance measures for the political and civilian affairs components of its operations, which were critical to evaluating the effectiveness of operations. Reviews of four missions noted that, while the practice of results-based budgeting was evolving, several areas needed improvement to enhance its utility in peacekeeping missions. Two main issues hindered its full utilization: it was not fully utilized as a management tool in most missions because it was not linked to or integrated into the mission implementation plans; and there was a lack of results-based budgeting capacity at the missions due to staff turnover and a lack of useful results-based budgeting guidance.

As to compliance risk, otos, based on its comprehensive audit of the United Nations Mission in Nepal, concluded that policies and procedures on human resources, procurement and logistical support that were specific to launching short-term political missions needed to be developed, considering the limited duration of their mandates and the associated political and reputational risks to the Organization. The absence of such policy adversely affected the deployment of political missions and their mandate implementation. There were also serious internal control shortcomings in the Mission’s operational areas, particularly administrative and logistical planning, procurement and asset management. Other examples of compliance risk were found in unmil, the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, onub, monuc, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (undof), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

Among examples of financial risk, the report noted the otos Procurement Task Force’s examination of some 40 complaints involving corruption and procurement irregularities in monuc. The Task Force found numerous cases of vendors and companies having to pay staff as a prerequisite for the award of business contracts, or offering to pay money in exchange for assistance in the procurement process. The Task Force identified extensive efforts by several procurement staff members to solicit payments and bribes from vendors in exchange for preferential treatment and benefits. It also found extensive corruption in the Mission’s procurement and an overall collapse of ethical culture. A lack of continuity at the managerial level on the one hand, improper ethics and procurement training, and little rotation of staff on the other, contributed to that development. The Task Force concluded that the Mission should overhaul its procurement operations and provide ethics training, or divest responsibility for procurement...
to Headquarters or an independent third party. An audit of the management of systems contracts for peacekeeping operations identified various internal control weaknesses, from the planning stage to vendor performance evaluation and payments, which represented high risk of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in operations.

Operational risk involved impact on the mandate arising from failure of internal processes. In an audit of UNDOF, OIOS found that there was little rotation of procurement staff, while good management practice called for periodic rotation to minimize the risk of collusion with vendors. In an audit of air operations of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, OIOS found that the Mission’s air assets, comprising 42 aircraft, were underutilized. OIOS recommended that the Mission conduct a comprehensive review of its air asset requirements and adjust its fleet to ensure cost-effectiveness.

In an April addendum to the report [A/62/281 (Part II)/Add.1], the Secretary-General provided his comments on the OIOS findings.

By decision 62/545 C of 20 June, the June deferred until its sixty-third (2008) session the item on “Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007, and the Secretary-General’s note transmitting his comments thereon”.

**Public information in peacekeeping operations**

The General Assembly, in Part III of resolution 63/100 B of 5 December (see p. 702) on the role of the Department of Public Information ( DPI) in UN peacekeeping operations, commended the DPI role and its network of UN information centres in commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of UN peacekeeping (see p. 74). It requested the Secretariat to ensure the Department’s involvement from the planning stage of future peacekeeping operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other Secretariat departments, in particular DPKO and DFS. It requested DPI, DPKO and DFS to continue their cooperation in raising awareness of the new realities, successes and challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, especially multidimensional and complex ones, and the recent surge in UN peacekeeping activities, and welcomed efforts by the three Departments to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy on current challenges facing UN peacekeeping. The Assembly also asked DPI and DPKO to cooperate in implementing an outreach programme to explain the Organization’s zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and to inform the public of the outcome of all such cases involving peacekeeping personnel.

**Comprehensive review of peacekeeping**

**Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations**

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 61/291 [YUN 2007, p. 75], the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group continued their comprehensive review of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects [A/62/19]. In response to the Committee’s request, the Secretary-General submitted a December report [A/63/615 & Add.1] on the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations.

The Special Committee held its 2008 session from 10 March to 4 April and 3 July in New York. The Special Committee discussed guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates, restructuring of peacekeeping, safety and security, conduct and discipline, strengthening operational capacity, strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, cooperation with troop-contributing countries, enhancement of African peacekeeping capabilities, cooperation with regional arrangements, best practices, training, personnel issues and financial matters.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 11 September [meeting 121], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/62/406/ Add.1], adopted resolution 62/273 without vote [agenda item 34].

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

The General Assembly,

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


Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the United Nations make to peacekeeping,

Noting the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,
Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. Welcomes the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group;
2. Endorses the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 15 to 199 of its report;
3. Urges Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;
4. Reiterates that those Member States that become personnel contributors to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Special Committee, become members at the following session of the Special Committee;
5. Decides that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;
6. Requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;
7. Decides to include in the draft agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects”.

On 5 December, the Assembly, by decision 63/523, took note of the report of the Fourth Committee on the comprehensive review peacekeeping [A/63/402].

Operations in 2008

As at 1 January 2008, there were 17 peacekeeping missions in operation—8 in Africa, 1 in the Americas, 2 in Asia, 3 in Europe and the Mediterranean and 3 in the Middle East. During the year, one mission was completed: the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, bringing the total number of missions in operation at year’s end to 16.

Africa


Americas

In the Americas, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti until 15 October 2009.

Asia

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


In September, the Council extended the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for a further period of 12 months beyond 13 October 2008.

Europe and the Mediterranean


Middle East

Three long-standing operations continued in the Middle East. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization continued to monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements and assist other peacekeeping operations in the region. The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force was twice renewed, until 31 December 2008 and until 30 June 2009; and that of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was renewed until 31 August 2009.
Roster of 2008 operations

**UNTSO**
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization  
*Established:* May 1948.  
*Mandate:* To monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements and assist other peacekeeping operations in the Middle East.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 151 military observers.

**UNMOGIP**
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan  
*Established:* January 1949.  
*Mandate:* To supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 44 military observers.

**UNFICYP**
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus  
*Established:* March 1964.  
*Mandate:* To prevent the recurrence of fighting between the two Cypriot communities.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 859 troops, 68 police.

**UNDOF**
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force  
*Mandate:* To supervise the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 1,039 troops.

**UNIFIL**
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon  
*Established:* March 1978.  
*Mandate:* To restore peace and security and assist the Lebanese Government in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area; expanded in 2006 to include monitoring the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon and Israel [YUN 2006, p. 584], supporting the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces throughout southern Lebanon, and helping to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the safe return of displaced persons.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 12,435 troops.

**MINURSO**
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara  
*Mandate:* To monitor and verify the implementation of a settlement plan for Western Sahara and assist in the holding of a referendum in the Territory.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 20 troops, 197 military observers, 6 civilian police.

**UNOMIG**
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia  
*Established:* August 1993.  
*Mandate:* To verify compliance with a ceasefire agreement between the parties to the conflict in Georgia and investigate ceasefire violations; expanded in 1994 to include monitoring the implementation of an agreement on a ceasefire and separation of forces and observing the operation of a multinational peacekeeping force.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 136 military observers, 20 civilian police.

**UNMIK**
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo  
*Mandate:* To promote the establishment of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo, perform basic civilian administrative functions, organize and oversee the development of provisional institutions, facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo’s future status, support reconstruction of key infrastructure, maintain civil law and order, protect human rights and assure the return of refugees and displaced persons.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 841 civilian police, 22 military observers.

**MONUC**
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
*Mandate:* To establish contacts with the signatories to the Ceasefire Agreement, provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Agreement, provide information on security conditions, plan for the observation of the ceasefire, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and assist in the protection of human rights; expanded in 2007 to include assisting the Government in establishing a stable security environment [YUN 2007, p. 119] and supporting the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law.  
*Strength as at December 2008:* 16,603 troops, 740 military observers, 1,079 civilian police.
UNMEE
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
Established: July 2000.
Mandate: To establish and put into operation the mechanism for verifying the cessation of hostilities and to assist the Military Coordination Commission in tasks related to demining and in administrative support to its field offices.

UNMIL
United Nations Mission in Liberia
Mandate: To support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process; protect UN staff, facilities and civilians; support humanitarian and human rights activities; and assist in national security reform, including national police training and the formation of a new, restructured military.
Strength as at December 2008: 10,607 troops, 180 military observers, 1,066 civilian police.

UNOCI
United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire
Mandate: To monitor the implementation of the 3 May 2003 comprehensive ceasefire agreement and the movement of armed groups; assist in disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement; protect UN personnel, institutions and civilians; support humanitarian assistance; support implementation of the peace process; and assist in the promotion of human rights, public information, and law and order. The mandate was expanded in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 170] to include assisting in disarming and dismantling militias; identifying the population and organizing elections; reforming the security sector; monitoring the arms embargo; and supporting the redeployment of State administration.
Strength as at December 2008: 7,830 troops, 197 military observers, 1,163 civilian police.

MINUSTAH
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
Established: June 2004.
Mandate: To ensure a secure and stable environment in support of the Transitional Government; support the constitutional and political process; support the Transitional Government in bringing about national dialogue, conducting free and fair elections, and extending State authority throughout the country; promote and protect human rights and coordinate with the Transitional Government in the provision of humanitarian assistance.
Strength as at December 2008: 7,036 troops, 2,053 civilian police.

UNAMID
African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
Established: July 2007.
Mandate: To contribute to the restoration of security conditions necessary for the safe provision of humanitarian assistance throughout Darfur; contribute to the protection of threatened populations; observe compliance with and verify the implementation of ceasefire agreements signed since 2004, and assist in the implementation of the 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement [YUN 2006, p. 274] and subsequent agreements; assist the political process to ensure inclusiveness; support joint AU-UN mediation efforts; contribute to a secure environment for economic reconstruction and development, as well as return of IDPs and refugees; contribute to the protection of human rights; promote the rule of law; and monitor the security situation at Sudan's borders with Chad and the Central African Republic.
Strength as at December 2008: 12,194 troops, 2,767 civilian police, 175 military observers.
MINURCAT

United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad


Mandate: To select, train, advise and facilitate support to elements of the Police tchadienne pour la protection humanitaire; contribute to the creation of a more secure environment; support the Chadian Government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in relocating refugee camps; exchange information with the Sudanese Government, the AU Mission in the Sudan, UNAMID and other regional and international organizations on threats to humanitarian activities in the region; contribute to the monitoring, promotion and protection of human rights; support the strengthening of the capacity of the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic, and civil society, through training in international human rights standards and efforts to end the recruitment and use of children by armed groups; and assist Chad and the Central African Republic in promoting the rule of law.

Strength as at December 2008: 44 military observers, 235 civilian police.

Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly considered a number of issues related to financial and administrative aspects of UN peacekeeping operations, including the financial performance of UN peacekeeping operations; the support account for peacekeeping operations; funds for closed missions; consolidation of peacekeeping accounts; financial reports and audited financial statements; procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment; best practices, management and financing of the UN Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy; restructuring; personnel matters; criminal responsibility of UN staff and experts on mission; welfare and recreational needs of peacekeeping staff; death and disability; training; and staffing of field missions.

Financing

Expenditures for UN peacekeeping operations from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 rose by 21.7 per cent, from $5,148.1 million in the previous fiscal year to $6,265.8 million [A/63/5 (Vol. II)]. The net increase was mainly due to the start-up of UNAMID and MINURCAT and the expansion of UNIFIL, which were partially offset by the reduced expenditures for UNMIS.

In terms of the overall financial situation during the year, assessments, unpaid assessments and expenditures all increased, with a corresponding decrease in liquidity in active missions totalling $136.8 million. Outstanding unpaid assessments for active peacekeeping missions increased by 44 per cent, from $707.5 million to $1,018.9 million. Unpaid assessments for closed missions did not change significantly. As at 30 June, total unpaid assessments amounted to $1,576.5 million.

Available cash for active missions totalled $1,891.5 million, while liabilities reached $2,224.7 million. For closed missions, available cash totalled $507.5 million, while liabilities were $481.8 million. Closed missions with cash surpluses continued to be the only available source of lending to active peacekeeping missions. New loans totalling $72 million were made during the reporting period, bringing total loans outstanding as at 30 June to $37.6 million.

Notes of Secretary-General. In a January note [A/C.5/62/23], the Secretary-General, further to the information provided in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 85] on approved resources for peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy, and the support account for peacekeeping operations from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, provided updated information reflecting financing actions taken by the General Assembly during its sixty-second session in respect of MINURCAT and UNAMID, bringing the total to $6,746,805,700.

In May [A/C.5/62/28], in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/233 A [YUN 1994, p. 1338], the Secretary-General submitted to the Fifth Committee information on the proposed budgetary requirements of each peacekeeping operation, including budget levels for UNLB and the support account for peacekeeping operations, for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, by category, and with the aggregate total resource requirements amounting to $7,376,102,600.

In August [A/C.5/62/31], the Secretary-General submitted information on approved resources for peacekeeping operations for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, including requirements for UNLB, and the support account for peacekeeping operations, amounting to $7,093,389,000.

Financial performance

In April [A/62/727], the Secretary-General submitted an overview report on the financing of UN peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the budget for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. During the former period, total expenditure amounted to $5,156.9 million, against an approved budget of $5,399.1 million, exclusive of voluntary contributions in kind. The budget for peacekeeping operations for the latter period was estimated at $7,368.3 million.
The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in an April report [A/62/781], on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations, reviewed and commented on the Secretary-General’s overview report on budget performance for 2006–2007 and budgets for 2008–2009, as well as the report of the Board of Auditors on peacekeeping operations.

On 20 June (decision 62/545 C), the General Assembly deferred consideration until its sixty-third (2008) session of the Secretary-General’s report and the related ACABQ report.

Peacekeeping support account

In March [A/62/766 & Add.1], the Secretary-General submitted the performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. Expenditures for the period amounted to $177,695,400, against approved resources of $189,017,400, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $11,322,000, which was attributable primarily to underexpenditure in respect of non-post resources, offset by additional requirements under post, communications and medical expenditures.

The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly not transfer the amount of $2,014,000 included in the $7,097,000 previously authorized in resolution 61/279 [YUN 2007, p. 97], representing the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund used to finance the requirements of the support account for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008; apply the total amount of $13,790,000, comprising the unencumbered balance of $5,491,600 and other income of $1,759,000 for the financial year ended 30 June 2007, the support account fund balance from the periods 1996–1997 to 1999–2000 in the amount of $2,138,000, and the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund for the financial period ended 30 June 2007 in the amount of $4,401,400, to the support account requirements for 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007; apply the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund for the financial period ended 30 June 2007 in the amount of $2,014,000 to the support account requirements for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008; and apply the amount of $469,600, representing the remaining balance of the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund for the financial period ended 30 June 2007, to the support account requirements for the following year.

In April [A/62/783 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General submitted the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, amounting to $287,651,700. It provided for a total of 1,278 posts, comprising 1,122 continuing posts, 76 new posts, including 15 transferred from peacekeeping missions, and 80 general temporary assistance positions converted to posts.

The Independent Audit Advisory Committee submitted in May [A/62/814 & Add.1] its comments on the proposed budget for otos under the support account for peacekeeping operations for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, with an emphasis on the proposed restructuring of the Investigations Division.

In June [A/62/855], ACABQ provided its observations and recommendations on the financial performance report for 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. The report also addressed the proposed additional resources for DPKO’s Office of Military Affairs (see p. 95). ACABQ recommended approval of 54 of the 176 posts proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on the support account budget, and 29 of the 92 additional posts proposed for strengthening the Office of Military Affairs. It recommended that the Assembly approve the staffing and non-staffing resources requested by the Secretary-General, subject to its observations and recommendations, and requested that the adjusted amount be provided to the Assembly. It also recommended approval of the recommendations contained in the performance report for 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 June [meeting 109], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/62/600/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/250 without vote [agenda item 140].

Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,


Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and on the comprehensive analysis of the Office of Military Affairs of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations, the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee
on the proposed budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

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

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

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

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and on the comprehensive analysis of the Office of Military Affairs of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations, and the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the proposed budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;

2. Reaffirms its role with regard to the structure of the Secretariat, and stresses that proposals that amend the overall departmental structure, as well as the format of the budgets of the Organization and the biennial programme plan, are subject to review and approval by the General Assembly;

3. Also reaffirms its role in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of human and financial resources and policies with a view to ensuring the full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

4. Further reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters;

5. Reaffirms rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

6. Emphasizes that ongoing management reforms must be fully taken into account when presenting additional proposals for reform;

7. Reaffirms that the support account funds shall be used for the sole purpose of financing human resources and non-human resource requirements for backstopping and supporting peacekeeping operations at Headquarters, and that any changes in this limitation require the prior approval of the General Assembly;

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

9. Recalls the role of the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations;

10. Reiterates that the delegation of authority on the part of the Secretary-General should be in order to facilitate the better management of the Organization, but stresses that the overall responsibility for management of the Organization rests with the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer;

11. Affirms the need for the Secretary-General to ensure that the delegation of authority to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and field missions is in strict compliance with relevant resolutions and decisions, as well as relevant rules and procedures of the General Assembly on this matter;

12. Stresses that heads of departments report to and are accountable to the Secretary-General;

13. Notes the unique nature of the reporting line from the head of the Department of Field Support to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and decides that having one head of department (Department of Field Support) report to and take direction from another head of department (Department of Peacekeeping Operations) shall not set a precedent in the Secretariat;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to address systemic issues that hamper good management of the Organization, including by improving work processes and procedures, and in that context stresses that structural change is no substitute for managerial improvement;

15. Reiterates the importance of strengthened accountability in the Organization and of ensuring greater accountability of the Secretary-General to Member States, inter alia, for the effective and efficient implementation of legislative mandates and the use of human and financial resources;

16. Recalls its request to the Secretary-General to specifically define accountability, as well as clear accountability mechanisms, including to the General Assembly, and to propose clear parameters for its application and the instruments for its rigorous enforcement, without exception, at all levels, to ensure effective and efficient operations and management of resources in the Organization;

17. Emphasizes the importance of preserving the unity of command in missions at all levels, as well as a coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the field and up to and including Headquarters;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure a clear chain of command, accountability, coordination and maintenance of an adequate system of checks and balances;

19. Emphasizes the importance of interaction and coordination with troop-contributing countries;

20. Also emphasizes the need to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel;

21. Urges the Secretary-General, within the framework established in its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997, to define explicitly the role and duties of the Deputy Secretary-General in the reform set out in its resolution 61/279, including in relation to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Management;
22. Recalls section I, paragraph 6, of its resolution 55/238, paragraph 11 of its resolution 56/241 and paragraph 19 of its resolution 61/279, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, taking into account their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping;

23. Reiterates that the Secretary-General, in employing staff, shall ensure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity as the paramount consideration, with due regard for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

24. Reaffirms paragraph 67 of its resolution 61/279, and requests the Secretary-General to include detailed information on mechanisms in place and measures taken to address the management challenges which the new organizational structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support poses, and the improvement that the new structure has brought in ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in the support for peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as to coordination with the Department of Political Affairs, in the context of the comprehensive report to be submitted at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session;

25. Notes with concern the late submission of the budgets of some peacekeeping operations, which puts considerable strain on the work of the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and, while recognizing the challenges faced in preparing the budget proposals and related reports on peacekeeping and special factors affecting some missions, requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to improve the quality and timely issuance of peacekeeping documents;

26. Reiterates its request in paragraph 13 of its resolution 60/268 and paragraph 32 of its resolution 61/279, and urges the Secretary-General to submit the comprehensive report on the evolution of the support account at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session within the context of his next budget proposal for the support account;

27. Notes that the application of an accurate vacancy rate is good budgetary practice and essential for the appropriate assessment on Member States;

28. Requests the Secretary-General, when submitting his budget proposals, to include details of the full annual cost of posts for the subsequent budget;

29. Takes note of paragraph 48 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

30. Stresses the importance of complementarity of efforts and avoiding duplication between integrated operational teams and substantive components of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon, and to provide a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the integrated operational teams, in the comprehensive report to be submitted to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session;

31. Affirms the importance of ensuring that the information and communications technology operations and requirements relating to peacekeeping are fully addressed and properly managed, taking into account the principle of unity of command;

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

33. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007 and other relevant resolutions;

34. 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;

35. Takes note of paragraphs 81 to 87 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to establish the following posts in the current structure of the Office of Military Affairs:

(a) One D-1, two P-5, ten P-4 and four P-3 posts in the Office of the Military Adviser and one P-4 post for a civilian officer;

(b) Three P-4 posts and two P-3 posts in the Force Generation Service;

(c) Twelve P-4 posts in the Military Planning Service;

(d) Four P-4 posts in the Current Military Operations Service;

(e) One P-4 and three P-3 posts to be assigned to the Logistics Support Division of the Department of Field Support;

(f) One P-4 and one P-3 to be assigned to the Information and Communications Technology Division of the Department of Field Support;

36. Requests the Secretary-General to submit for its consideration at its sixty-fourth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs and its impact on the organization and capacities of the Office;

37. Requests the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to consider the report referred to in paragraph 36 above at its 2010 substantive session;

38. Decides to approve the following posts:

(a) One P-5 post for a Security Focal Point in the Situation Centre, Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

(b) Two P-4 posts for a Policy Adviser and a Policy Development Officer in the Police Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

(c) One P-3 post for a Programme Officer in the Risk Management Unit of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support;

(d) One P-3 post for a Finance and Budget Officer in the Budget and Performance Reporting Service of the Field Budget and Finance Division, Department of Field Support;

(e) One D-2 post for the Director of the Information and Communications Technology Division, Department of Field Support;
(f) One General Service (Other level) post for a Human Resources Assistant (Roster Development) in the Office of Human Resources Management;

39. \textit{Decides} not to approve the following posts:

(a) One D-1 post for a Principal Officer and one General Service (Other level) post for an Administrative Assistant in the Asia and Middle East Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

(b) One P-3 post in the Engineering Section of the Logistics Support Division, Department of Field Support;

(c) One P-4 post in the Property Management Section of the Logistics Support Division, Department of Field Support;

(d) One P-4 post for a Technical Information Operations Support Officer, Department of Field Support;

(e) One P-4 post for a Management Analyst Officer in the Management Support Service of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management;

(f) One General Service (Other level) Finance Assistant (Health and Life Insurance Section) in the Accounts Division, Department of Management;

(g) One P-4 and one P-3 post for Procurement Officers in the Procurement Division, Department of Management;

(h) One P-4 Legal Officer in the Office of the Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs;

40. \textit{Decides} to convert one P-5 and one General Service general temporary assistance position in the Conduct and Discipline Unit to posts;

41. \textit{Also decides} to approve the following positions as general temporary assistance:

(a) One P-4 Human Resources Officer (Outreach and Strategic Staffing Section) in the Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Management;

(b) One P-3 Finance Officer in the Treasury Division, Department of Management;

42. \textit{Takes note} of paragraph 130 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to continue the four P-3 positions in the Peacekeeping Financing Division, Department of Management;

43. \textit{Decides} to reduce the non-post resources by 1,899,100 United States dollars, and requests the Secretary-General to consider applying the reduction, inter alia, to the consultancy requirements referred to in paragraphs 297 and 354 of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;

44. \textit{Also decides} to maintain, for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B of 7 June 1996;

45. \textit{Takes note} of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

46. \textit{Decides} not to transfer the amount of 2,014,000 dollars included in the amount of 7,097,000 dollars, previously authorized in its resolution 61/279, representing the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund utilized to finance the requirements of the support account in respect of the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

47. \textit{Decides} to apply the total amount of 13,790,000 dollars, comprising the unencumbered balance of 5,491,600 dollars and other income of 1,759,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, the support account fund balance in respect of financial periods ended 30 June 1997, 30 June 1998, 30 June 1999 and 30 June 2000 in the total amount of 2,138,000 dollars, and the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007 in the amount of 4,401,400 dollars, to the support account requirements for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

48. \textit{Also decides} to apply the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007 in the amount of 2,014,000 dollars to the support account requirements for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

Budget estimates for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

49. \textit{Approves} the support account requirements in the amount of 273,922,800 dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, including 1,122 continuing and 98 new temporary posts and their related post and non-post requirements;

Financing of the budget estimates

50. \textit{Decides} that the requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The amount of 469,600 dollars, representing the balance remaining of the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;

(b) The balance of 273,453,200 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;

(c) The estimated staff assessment income of 26,274,600 dollars, comprising the amount of 26,221,200 dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and the increase of 53,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, to be offset against the balance referred to in subparagraph (b) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations.

Funds for closed missions

In March [A/62/757], the Secretary-General provided information on the updated financial position of 20 closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2007. The
net cash surplus in the accounts of 15 closed missions credited to Member States as at that date amounted to $181,776,000, not including $18,316,000 owed by the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti/United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti/United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and MINUSCO. Five of the closed missions reflected cash deficits totalling $88,036,000, owing to outstanding payments of assessed contributions.

The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly, subject to its approval of his proposal to consolidate the peacekeeping accounts effective 1 July 2008, in accordance with the framework outlined in his updated report on the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts [A/62/726] (see below), decide to return to Member States credits available as at 30 June 2008 in closed peacekeeping missions with cash surpluses.

In April [A/62/816], ACABQ provided its comments on the Secretary-General’s report. It also called for fresh proposals to resolve the problem of debts in cash-deficient closed missions.

**Consolidation of peacekeeping accounts**

The Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 61/278 [YUN 2007, p. 87], submitted in March an updated comprehensive report [A/62/726] on the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts, including a simulation of options proposed. The Secretary-General’s original proposal [YUN 2006, p. 97] was to consolidate retroactively all peacekeeping accounts, of both active and closed missions, except for the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC), the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and the strategic deployment stocks, to improve cash management and operational flexibility. The Secretariat still considered that to be the preferred approach—the one that would provide the greatest flexibility in the use of peacekeeping resources with increased reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing Member States while simplifying the administrative processes for financing operations. Consideration was given to the consolidation of the accounts of only the active missions, or alternatively only the closed missions, but no significant benefits of such approaches could be identified.

The proposed consolidation framework envisaged the following: the peacekeeping accounts would be consolidated retroactively, effective 1 July 2008, with the four exceptions; peacekeeping assessments would be consolidated quarterly during each peacekeeping period (July, October, January and April) on the basis of the approved appropriation for each peacekeeping mission and its mandate period, with the provision that assessments should also cover any outstanding unassessed appropriations from prior financial periods; and credits from unencumbered balances, interest and other miscellaneous income would be applied to offset the consolidated assessments of the subsequent fiscal period, similar to the practice under the regular budget, and voluntary contributions would be taken into account. Upon consolidation, all outstanding and unpaid balances would be combined, except for the outstanding amounts for UNEF and ONUC, and the arrears of Belarus and Ukraine before 1996. With regard to amounts in suspense in favour of Member States at the effective date, all unapplied credit balances and overpayments to all peacekeeping missions would be combined and offset in total against the outstanding and unpaid balances at that date; remaining unapplied amounts would be carried forward and applied to the consolidated assessments issued after the implementation date.

The Secretary-General’s budget proposals for each peacekeeping mission would continue to be prepared separately; however, there would be a single financing resolution showing the breakdown by mission, and there would be no transfer of appropriations between missions. A consolidated performance report would be presented at the overall peacekeeping budget level and would report the consolidated expenditures compared to the overall total appropriations, as well as expenditures and appropriations by mission, focusing on significant issues emerging from the analysis of the most important drivers of expenditure. Results-based budgeting frameworks would continue to be presented for each mission as addenda to the financial performance report. In light of the overall improvement in liquidity, credits available as at 30 June 2008 in closed peacekeeping missions with cash surpluses should be returned to Member States individually prior to consolidation; the credits would first be applied to reduce a Member State’s unpaid assessment, if any, and thereafter be used at the discretion of the Member State. Credits available to be returned totalled $181.8 million as at 30 June 2007.

The Secretary-General said that the proposed consolidation of peacekeeping accounts would permit more consistent and timely reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries, since cash in the peacekeeping accounts would be commingled, obviating the need to defer payments for cash-poor missions; enable payments in respect of certain liabilities in closed missions currently deferred due to lack of cash in their respective accounts; enable the return of credits in closed peacekeeping missions with cash surpluses to Member States; facilitate planning and administration for Member States, since the total requirements for the entire financial year would be largely known at the beginning of the financial period, thereby reducing the number of peacekeeping assessments from about 40 per financial period.
to only four; require a single General Assembly resolution rather than 17 separate resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations; improve the overall liquidity of peacekeeping operations, resulting in greater flexibility in the use of peacekeeping resources; simplify the administrative processes; and result in a simplified set of financial statements, as a single consolidated expenditure statement combining expenditures for peacekeeping operations would be prepared and another statement would break down expenditures by mission.

The Secretary-General requested the Assembly to consolidate the peacekeeping accounts effective 1 July 2008 in accordance with the proposed framework.

ACABQ, in its comments [A/62/818] on the Secretary-General’s report, stated that it continued to believe that it was for Member States to decide on the matter.

**Accounts and auditing**

At its resumed sixty-second (2008) session, the General Assembly considered the financial report and audited financial statements for UN peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 [A/62/5 (Vol. II)], the Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors [A/62/784], and the related ACABQ report [A/62/823].

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 June [meeting 109], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/62/534/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/223 B without vote [agenda item 125].

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

*The General Assembly,*


Having considered the financial report and audited financial statements for the twelve-month period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2007 and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2007,

1. Accepts the audited financial statements of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

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

3. Reiterates that the issue of outstanding assessed contributions is a policy matter of the General Assembly, and urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions in full;

4. Takes note of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the report of the Board of Auditors;

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

6. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2007;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, including those relating to the cancellation of unliquidated obligations and the system of assets management, and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to indicate an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors as well as the priorities for their implementation, including the office-holders to be held accountable and measures taken in that regard;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide, in future reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the United Nations peacekeeping operations, a full explanation for delays in the implementation of all outstanding recommendations of the Board.

**Reimbursement issues**

**Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment**

**Report of Working Group.** On 22 February [A/C.5/62/26], the Chairman of the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment transmitted to the Fifth Committee the report on the Group’s findings on reimbursement rates for equipment. The Working Group, which was presented with 24 issue papers by various Member States and the Secretariat, addressed the issues for the reimbursement procedure in three areas (major equipment, self-sustainment, medical support services), each dealt with by a sub-working group. According to the report, the overall impact of changes in reimbursement rates and the addition of new services would result in an increase of 2.7 per cent of the contingent-owned equipment portion of the UN peacekeeping budget based on memorandums of understanding. The Working Group con-
ducted a comprehensive review of contingent-owned equipment reimbursement rates for major equipment and the model/procedures for future reviews. It recommended the adoption of proposed revised rates, and that future triennial reviews be conducted in the form of a comprehensive review, using data provided or elected by troop/police contributors.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In April, the Secretary-General, in his report on the subject, set out the cost implications of implementing the Working Group’s recommendations estimated at $57,701,993 for the first year, which would be reported with effect from 1 July 2008 in the context of the individual peacekeeping operations’ financial performance reports for the 2008–2009 biennium. The Secretary-General said that the proposed revised standards and administrative procedures and the addition of new categories and subcategories would benefit the Secretariat by improving the structure of the contingent-owned equipment system and provide more transparent and enhanced verification tools. The Secretariat requested Member States to submit national cost data no later than two months prior to the next Working Group meeting.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly approve the new reimbursement rates recommended for major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services, and adopt the revised format for future triennial reviews of contingent-owned equipment reimbursement rates using actual cost data. In regard to “special cases” major equipment, the Assembly should approve the proposed reimbursement rates for new items and new categories of major equipment; agree to an increase in the threshold value of “special cases” from $500 to $1,000; and adopt the addition to the definition of “special cases”. It should also approve the increase from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in the provision to deploy major equipment as overstock in accordance with the quantities authorized in the memorandum of understanding; adopt the predefined training activities proposed by the Integrated Training Service; agree to the revision of the self-sustainment standard under “accommodation”; adopt the revision of the calculation of mission factors; approve the increase in recreational leave allowance for members of military contingents/formed police units from 7 days to 15; agree to the revision of the self-sustainment subcategory “welfare” and inclusion of “Internet access” as a subcategory with a reimbursement rate of $2.76 per person per month; approve the standards and reimbursement rates for provision of “basic firefighting” and “fire detection and alarm” capabilities in field missions at $0.16 and $0.13 per person per month, respectively; adopt the proposed reimbursement method for medical structures; agree to the revision of standards for “basic first aid” and “high-risk areas”; adopt the definition and reimbursement rates of “fee for service” for medical support services; and approve the revised standards of medical facilities and the equipment list of the aero-medical evacuation and forward surgery modules.

In May, the ACABQ recommended approval of the 2008 Working Group’s proposals. While agreeing with the recommendation that the overstock of major equipment be increased from 10 to 20 per cent, ACABQ noted that the higher ceiling might result in significant financial implications for the Organization.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 June, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, adopted resolution 62/252 without vote.

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**Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment**

*The General Assembly.*

Recalling its resolutions 55/274 of 14 June 2001 and 59/298 of 22 June 2005,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment, the report of the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment, as transmitted by the Chairman of the Working Group to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment and the report of the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment, as transmitted by the Chairman of the Working Group to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee;

2. 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;

3. Takes note of paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and invites the Working Group to reconsider its recommendation at its next meeting;

4. Recalls paragraph 8 of its resolution 55/274, and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update of his report, including the arrangements for recreational leave allowance, for its consideration at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session.

**Peacekeeping best practices**

On 20 June, the General Assembly deferred until its sixty-third (2008) session, consideration of the Secretary-General’s report on peacekeeping best practices [YUN 2007, p. 87].

**Special Committee consideration.** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008
Management of peacekeeping assets

United Nations Logistics Base

The General Assembly, at its resumed sixty-second (2008) session, considered the performance report on the UNLB budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 [A/62/669]. Expenditure for the period totalled $32,929,200 gross ($30,688,000 net) against a total appropriation of $35,478,700 gross ($32,943,500 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $2,549,500 gross ($2,555,500 net). The total value from strategic deployment of stocks for the period amounted to $88.2 million, including a $21.9 million rollover from the prior-period fund balance, and $66.3 million corresponding to shipments of strategic deployment stocks at replacement values to peacekeeping and special political missions and to other entities, thereby generating funds for replenishment. Strategic stock replenishment expenditures for the period amounted to $36.8 million. The balance of some $51 million was rolled over to the 2007–2008 period.

The Secretary-General requested the Assembly to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance and of other income/adjustments for the period amounting to $2,982,600 from interest income ($2,045,000), other/miscellaneous income ($262,200) and savings on or cancellation of prior-period obligations ($667,400).

The Assembly considered the proposed UNLB budget for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 [A/62/769] amounting to $45,827,400, an increase of $5,447,800 or 13.5 per cent over the previous financial period and providing for 59 international staff, 206 national staff and 22 temporary positions.

In May [A/62/781/Add.12], ACABQ recommended that the UNLB proposed budget be reduced by $58,400 and that the Assembly appropriate an amount of $45,769,000 gross for the maintenance of the Base for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

In June [A/C.5/62/30], the Secretary-General submitted to the Fifth Committee a note reflecting the resources to be approved by the Assembly in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated shares of the support account for peacekeeping operations and UNLB.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 June [meeting 109], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/62/600/Add.1], adopted resolution 62/251 without vote [agenda item 140].

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

The General Assembly,
Recalling section XIV of its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 and its resolution 62/231 of 22 December 2007,
Recalling also its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 61/277 of 29 June 2007,
Recalling further its resolution 56/292 of 27 June 2002 concerning the establishment of the strategic deployment stocks and its subsequent resolutions on the status of the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, the latest of which was resolution 61/277,
Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,
Reiterating the importance of establishing an accurate inventory of assets,
1. Notes with appreciation the facilities provided by the Government of Italy to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;
2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

5. Approves the cost estimates for the United Nations Logistics Base amounting to 45,769,000 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;

Financing of the budget estimates

6. Decides that the requirements for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 shall be financed as follows:
(a) The unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 5,532,100 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007 to be applied against the resources required for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;
(b) The balance of 40,236,900 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;

(c) The net estimated staff assessment income of 3,179,400 dollars, comprising the amount of 3,473,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and the decrease of 294,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (b) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations;

7. Also decides to consider at its sixty-third session the question of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

Restructuring issues

Special Committee consideration. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], noted the restructuring of dPKO and establishment of DFS [YUN 2007, p. 93], acknowledged the ongoing implementation process on integrating the two Departments, and called upon the Secretariat to fully implement General Assembly resolution 61/279 [ibid., p. 97] in a timely manner. The Special Committee emphasized the importance of preserving unity of command in missions at all levels, as well as coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the field and up to and including at Headquarters. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure a clear chain of command, accountability, coordination and maintenance of an adequate system of checks and balances.

Recognizing the intended role of integrated operational teams in facilitating the horizontal coordination and integration of dPKO and DFS activities, the Special Committee acknowledged the work being done to develop the teams’ terms of reference. It requested dPKO and DFS to work in a coordinated manner to provide leadership and support to peacekeeping missions, and to work in such a manner in their relationship with Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee recommended urgent action to fill all posts, particularly those at senior management level, in accordance with resolution 61/279 [YUN 2007, p. 97].

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in March [A/62/741], issued a preliminary report on the status of implementation of Assembly resolution 61/279, as requested therein, in which he reviewed progress made in restructuring dPKO, including the establishment of DFS and consequent achievements. The two Departments undertook to complete the restructuring process within 12 months; at the time of the report, the Secretariat was more than halfway through the process. The reform had been shaped by the need for greater focus on strategic issues related to mission planning and mandate implementation, and for more effective coordination in cross-cutting areas of activity, such as mission planning, deployment, management and support, as well as crisis response. The restructuring process had been guided by four principles: giving priority to field missions; ensuring unity of command within UN peacekeeping; maintaining simplicity of approach with a focus on objectives, real needs and results; and ensuring transparency and inclusiveness so as to facilitate decision-making, accountability and engagement of all stakeholders. The restructuring process focused on the priority areas of: recruitment and senior appointments; the establishment of integrated and common structures, policies and processes; information management and technology support; outreach and the dissemination of information to all stakeholders on restructuring; development and conduct of training programmes for integrated operational teams; development and implementation of evaluation mechanisms; and office space and co-location.

Recruitment for the additional 152 authorized positions had been a management priority, and 69 positions had been filled, including most senior appointments. Restructuring had involved the establishment of integrated operational teams for coordination between DFS and dPKO, and six of the seven teams had been created within the regional divisions of the Office of Operations, to be staffed by military, police and support specialists. Integration was also enhanced through shared resources, linking management of budgets and human resources. Public information activities were reformed to ensure outreach to primary stakeholders, including staff from both Departments and field missions, in addition to internal and external partners. Efforts were made to co-locate the two Departments: senior management was co-located in 2007 and priority accorded to co-locating the integrated operational teams.

Office of Military Affairs

In March [A/62/752], the Secretary-General, responding to General Assembly resolution 61/279, submitted a report on the comprehensive analysis of the Office of Military Affairs in dPKO. In that resolution, the Assembly affirmed its support of the reform proposals to deal with the growing volume and complexity of peacekeeping operations, including proposals for strengthening the Office’s leadership capacities and management of the exponential growth in peacekeeping operations. Accordingly, the Office’s military leadership was strengthened. Further developments in peacekeeping, such as the support required for increasingly complex operations and the higher threat environments, however, had rendered those adjustments inadequate.
That assessment was reinforced by the results of a comprehensive analysis of the Office of Military Affairs, lessons identified from the Strategic Military Cell established in 2006 to provide guidance to a reinforced UNILF, and experts in specialized areas. There was a need within the Secretariat for enhanced military oversight and guidance for complex and challenging missions, where military actions on the ground could have major political consequences at a strategic level, and where the threat to UN military personnel was high. Such enhanced oversight and guidance required additional military officers at the headquarters level to monitor military operations and provide an analysis of military threats, as well as additional leadership experience. In addition, specialist military officers were required to carry out more complex operations, including the collation and analysis of military intelligence, the planning, management and oversight of military maritime, air and aviation capabilities, and the provision of advice to the Secretariat on the planning, support, management and oversight of military operations, particularly in military logistics and communications. All of those capacities were currently lacking in the Office of Military Affairs. On the basis of the lessons identified and the increasingly complex nature of peacekeeping missions, a different form of military headquarters in the Secretariat was needed to provide a higher degree of strategic military planning, guidance, support and oversight.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPRK) Office of Military Affairs should fulfil three critical military functions in support of peacekeeping operations: possess the breadth and depth of rank and experience to provide the best military advice; conduct strategic and operational planning, including field assessments and contingencies for current and new peacekeeping operations and quickly generate, balance, deploy and rotate the military forces required for missions, and produce military directives and orders, including rules of engagement, to guide and direct the military, and components of field operations; and produce, review and amend the policies needed to underpin peacekeeping operations while looking ahead to develop military capabilities to meet future peacekeeping challenges. In an increasingly complex and challenging peacekeeping environment, a much greater degree of military strategic assessment, oversight, guidance and technical direction, including crisis response, was required. To perform those functions, the Office of Military Affairs had a staff of 67 military officers (13 of whom were assigned on a full-time basis to the integrated operational teams in the Office of Operations) and 5 civilian Professionals, supported by 18 General Service staff. In addition, the Office had to maintain a regular dialogue with 119 troop-contributing countries. The Office therefore lacked the rank, capacity and specialist capabilities to fulfil the functions of a strategic military headquarters within DPRK in both routine and crisis situations.

The proposal for a strengthened Office of Military Affairs would add the expert military capacities found in many military headquarters structures. The leadership and senior management would be enhanced with the addition of three one-star generals at the Principal Officer level to reduce the span of command and control of the Military Adviser, increase the level and availability of military advice, improve interaction with Member States and provide stronger oversight of all military staff functions.

Those changes would substantially increase the degree and quality of military strategic advice, support, guidance and oversight provided to field missions, without changing the existing chain of command; strengthen unity of command by allowing the leadership in the Secretariat and at field missions to make better informed, timely and agreed decisions based on common assessments of situations; address critical gaps, including the need for military specialists and mission start-up capability; and increase Member States’ confidence in the leadership and management of the military aspects of peacekeeping operations.

The Secretary-General outlined the new services and units envisaged for the expanded Office, their respective duties and the need for 92 additional posts. He recommended that the Assembly approve the proposals and decide to include $6,399,600 in the requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (see p. 87).

Standing Police Capacity

Special Committee consideration. At its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations discussed police capacities for peacekeeping missions. It took note of the incorporation of the Police Division in the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, and supported the inclusion of the Police Adviser in the DPRK senior management team. It noted the rapid expansion of the policing functions in the field.

Report of Panel of Experts. In response to General Assembly resolution 62/273 (see p. 82), the Secretary-General, in December [A/63/630], transmitted the report of the Panel of Experts on the Standing Police Capacity’s first year of operation, and expressed support for its recommendations. Outlining issues, the Panel made recommendations on core functions, command and control, structure and personnel, support, financial and material assistance to national authorities, recruitment, and conditions of service. The Panel stated that the Police Capacity’s established core functions—start-up of the police component for new
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peacekeeping operations, assistance to and assessment of police components in existing missions, and conducting investigations as requested—were appropriate. With its current structure and capacity, however, it was only able to meet current demand for its services with difficulty. The Panel believed that a system for prioritizing requests for assistance should be in place. The Standing Police Capacity members should participate in technical assessments for anticipated complex operations, along with other representatives from the Police Division, to build joint knowledge of the mission area. When the Standing Police Capacity moved to UNLB, its Chief should continue to report to the UN Police Adviser. The Panel presented two options for the Standing Police Capacity’s structure—one which would require 54 staff, to be supported by budget planners, human resource managers, civil engineers, contract managers, and a New York-based focal point to liaise with Headquarters; and a second option with 40 per cent more staff, which would enable the Standing Police Capacity to cover one major or two smaller new operations per year. The Panel recommended that adequate resources be made available to facilitate immediate financial and material assistance to national law enforcement agencies in conjunction with UN police deployment. Particular attention should be given to recruitment of personnel, ensuring that staff had the necessary background, language abilities, training and weapons proficiency.

Personnel matters

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], expressed concern over the high number of vacancies in peacekeeping missions and requested the Secretariat to accelerate the recruitment of personnel. It underscored the importance of effective interaction between Headquarters and the field to ensure efficient communications and the safety of peacekeeping personnel. In that regard, it encouraged the Secretary-General to employ staff in DPKO and DFS competent in the Secretariat’s working languages. Acknowledging the importance of interaction of UN military observers, police and civilian personnel with the local population, it urged DPKO and DFS to make further efforts to recruit staff and experts on mission with language skills relevant to the mission area where they were to be deployed, and to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations. It affirmed that good command of the official language spoken in the country should be taken into account in selecting and training personnel.

The Special Committee was concerned that the UN death and disability claims process for peacekeeping personnel was overly cumbersome, lengthy and lacking in transparency. It noted that discrepancies existed between the compensation benefits provided to experts on mission and those provided to contingent members.

Criminal accountability of UN staff and experts on mission

Report of Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, established by the General Assembly in resolution 61/29 [YUN 2006, p. 109], held its second session (New York, 7–9 and 11 April) [A/63/54] to continue consideration of the 2006 report of the Group of Legal Experts [ibid.] on ensuring the accountability of UN staff and experts on mission with respect to criminal acts committed on peacekeeping operations. The Ad Hoc Committee discussed the issues concerning international cooperation contained in the report, in particular facilitating investigations by the host State; facilitating investigations by States other than the host State; administrative investigations by the United Nations; and legislative and other changes. The discussion also addressed specific issues such as timely notification and reporting mechanisms; collecting and securing the integrity of evidence (testimony, material, confidentiality) and use by States of material provided by the United Nations; conduct of on-site investigations (consent and conditions for consent); extradition and mutual legal assistance; the role of the United Nations (independent and professional administrative investigation); the role of experts, including military lawyers and military prosecutors with knowledge of the State’s military law; admissibility (of evidence in a foreign jurisdiction); recognition (of administrative investigation by the United Nations); due process; transfer of criminal proceedings; and transfer of prisoners.

Support was expressed for the proposal that States expand their cooperation on the exchange of information, extradition, the serving of sentences and other measures to facilitate the exercise of criminal jurisdiction, including judicial assistance mechanisms. Similarly, cooperation with the United Nations could cover the exchange of information, assistance with respect to procedural issues (such as the gathering of evidence), reporting on the status of investigations and enhancing rule-of-law capacities. Reference was made to the fact that, while criminal investigation remained the primary responsibility of the host State, evidence gathered by the United Nations remained important for subsequent criminal proceedings. Some delegations reiterated the view that it was premature to discuss negotiating an international convention on the topic, as had been proposed by the Group of Legal Experts and supported by the Secretariat in its 2007 note [YUN 2007, p. 101]. Some delegations expressed support, in principle, for a convention requiring Member States to exercise jurisdiction over their na-
tionsals participating in UN operations. It was noted that, while bilateral agreements existed, their coverage was incomplete and did not usually address judicial cooperation between States and the United Nations.

The Ad Hoc Committee reiterated the recommendation that the Sixth (Legal) Committee, during the sixty-third (2008) session of the General Assembly, establish a working group to continue consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In an August report on the criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission [A/63/260 & Add.1], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 62/63 [YUN 2007, p. 102], the Secretary-General provided information from 28 Governments on the extent to which their national laws established jurisdiction, particularly over serious crimes committed by their nationals while serving as UN officials or experts on mission, as well as information from 21 Governments on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution of such individuals. The report contained information by the Secretariat on bringing credible allegations that a crime might have been committed by UN officials to the attention of States against whose nationals such allegations had been made. It provided information on Secretariat activities on ensuring that prospective experts on mission were informed of the expectation that they should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour, as well as regarding taking other practical measures to strengthen training on UN standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission training.

**Working Group consideration.** On the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission (see above), the Sixth Committee [A/63/437], on 6 October, established a Working Group to continue consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 59/300 [YUN 2005, p. 122], focusing on its legal aspects and taking into account the views expressed in the Ad Hoc Committee. The Working Group met on 14, 15 and 17 October. On 24 October, the Working Group’s Chairperson presented to the Sixth Committee an oral report on its work. The Committee adopted a draft resolution on the subject on 29 October [A/C.6/63/L.10], which was adopted by the General Assembly.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 11 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/63/437], adopted resolution 63/119 without vote [agenda item 73].

**Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission**

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 59/281 of 29 March 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 56 of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Secretary-General make available to the United Nations membership a comprehensive report on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Noting that the Secretary-General, on 24 March 2005, transmitted to the President of the General Assembly a report of his Adviser concerning sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, Recalling its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005 endorsing the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that a group of legal experts be established to provide advice on the best way to proceed so as to ensure that the original intent of the Charter of the United Nations can be achieved, namely that United Nations staff and experts on mission would never be effectively exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized without due process, Recognizing the valuable contribution of United Nations officials and experts on mission towards the fulfillment of the principles and purposes of the Charter, Reaffirming the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international law, Reaffirming also that the present resolution is without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials and experts on mission and the United Nations under international law, Reaffirming further the obligation of United Nations officials and experts on mission to respect the national laws of the host State, as well as the right of the host State to exercise, where applicable, its criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing operations of United Nations missions, Deeply concerned by reports of criminal conduct, and conscious that such conduct, if not investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted, would create the negative impression that United Nations officials and experts on mission operate with impunity, Reaffirming the need to ensure that all United Nations officials and experts on mission function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations, Emphasizing that crimes committed by such persons are unacceptable and have a detrimental effect on the fulfillment of the mandate of the United Nations, in particular with respect to the relations between the United Nations and the local population in the host country, Conscious of the importance of protecting the rights of victims of criminal conduct, as well as ensuring adequate protection for witnesses, and noting the adoption of its resolution 62/214 of 21 December 2007 on the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel,
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Emphasizing the need to enhance international cooperation to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolution 61/29 of 4 December 2006, establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Having considered the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 59/300 and the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the note by the Secretariat and the report of the Secretary-General on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolution 62/63 of 6 December 2007,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations and its Member States to urgently take strong and effective steps to ensure criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission in the interest of justice,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on the same subject;

2. Strongly urges States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons and the United Nations under international law, and in accordance with international human rights standards, including due process;

3. Strongly urges all States to consider establishing to the extent that they have not yet done so jurisdiction, particularly over crimes of a serious nature, as known in their existing domestic criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, at least where the conduct as defined in the law of the State establishing jurisdiction also constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State;

4. Encourages all States to cooperate with each other and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and in facilitating the conduct of investigations and, as appropriate, prosecution of United Nations officials and experts on mission who are alleged to have committed crimes of a serious nature, in accordance with their domestic laws and applicable United Nations rules and regulations, fully respecting due process rights, as well as to consider strengthening the capacities of their national authorities to investigate and prosecute such crimes;

5. Also encourages all States:

(a) To afford each other assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings in respect of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal in accordance with their domestic law or any treaties or other arrangements on extradition and mutual legal assistance that may exist between them;

(b) In accordance with their domestic law, to explore ways and means of facilitating the possible use of information and material obtained from the United Nations for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated in their territory for the prosecution of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, bearing in mind due process considerations;

(c) In accordance with their domestic law, to provide effective protection for victims of, witnesses to, and others who provide information in relation to, crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission and to facilitate access by victims to victim assistance programmes, without prejudice to the rights of the alleged offender, including those relating to due process;

(d) In accordance with their domestic law, to explore ways and means of responding adequately to requests by host States for support and assistance in order to enhance their capacity to conduct effective investigations in respect of crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that requests to Member States seeking personnel to serve as experts on mission make States aware of the expectation that persons who serve in that capacity should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour and are aware that certain conduct may amount to a crime for which they may be held accountable;

7. Urges the Secretary-General to continue to take such other practical measures as are within his authority to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training for United Nations officials and experts on mission;

8. Decides that the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and the information contained in the note by the Secretariat, shall be continued during its sixty-fourth session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to bring credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission to the attention of the States against whose nationals such allegations are made, and to request from those States an indication of the status of their efforts to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute crimes of a serious nature, as well as the types of appropriate assistance States may wish to receive from the Secretariat for the purposes of such investigations and prosecutions;

10. Requests the United Nations, when its investigations into allegations suggest that crimes of a serious nature may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, to consider any appropriate measures that may facilitate the possible use of information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States, bearing in mind due process considerations;

11. Encourages the United Nations, when allegations against United Nations officials and experts on mission are determined by a United Nations administrative investigation to be unfounded, to take appropriate measures, in the interests of the Organization, to restore the credibility and reputation of such officials and experts on mission;

12. Urges the United Nations to continue cooperating with States exercising jurisdiction in order to provide them,
within the framework of the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing activities of the United Nations, with information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States;

13. **Emphasizes** that the United Nations, in accordance with the applicable rules of the Organization, should take no action that would retaliate against or intimidate United Nations officials and experts on mission who report allegations concerning crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

14. **Takes note with appreciation** of the information provided by Governments in response to its resolution 62/63;

15. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular with respect to paragraphs 3, 5 and 9 above, as well as any practical problems in its implementation, on the basis of information received from Governments and the Secretariat;

16. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to include in the report information on the number and types of credible allegations and any actions taken by the United Nations and its Member States regarding crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

17. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission".

**Welfare and recreational needs**

In January [A/62/663], the Secretary-General, responding to the request of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2005 resumed session [YUN 2005, p. 120] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 59/300 [ibid., p. 122], submitted a report on the comprehensive review of the welfare and recreational needs of all categories of peacekeeping personnel. The report reviewed the relevant aspects of the conditions of service of various categories of peacekeeping personnel, including international staff members and members of military and police contingents, and described the status of the reforms under consideration or under way, such as classification of duty stations as family or non-family, payment of mission subsistence allowance to staff officers and review of the rates of reimbursement to troop/police contributing countries for, among other things, the welfare category of self-sustainment. It surveyed the current welfare and recreation practices in peacekeeping missions and identified issues concerning the need to improve the welfare of various categories of personnel.

The Secretariat proposed a number of measures to address those issues. It suggested that DFS and DPKO submit Secretariat issue paper No. 8 for the consideration of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment at its February session (see p. 92), recommending that the recreational leave allowance be made admissible to contingent personnel for the entirety of 15 days of leave allowed in six months of deployment with a peacekeeping mission. The Department should review the compensatory time off policy in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management, elaborate it, and promulgate a revised and consistent policy by means of an administrative issuance.

Another recommendation called for the establishment of a post exchange at the mission and, if feasible, the sector headquarters to accommodate the supply needs of staff and to generate dividends from sales that might be used as income for the mission's welfare fund. A post-exchange contract should be opened for bidding prior to deployment, and appropriate space for a post exchange should be provided in initial engineering plans. DFS, in consultation with DPKO, would revise the existing guidance on the subject. In order to facilitate provision of basic utilities, peacekeeping personnel should be encouraged to establish facilities, and where such a need existed, offer fuel and generators to staff on a cost-sharing basis. Similarly, the supply of electricity to private accommodations for a monthly flat rate should be among welfare practices.

Provisions in the model memorandum of understanding on Internet availability were not sufficient to provide personal e-mail access for all contingent personnel, and were generally reserved for senior officers. An Internet facility for personal use by all contingent personnel should be made available on each base. In peacekeeping operations where the local communications infrastructure was inadequate, communications could be facilitated by engaging a private, satellite-based service provider, and in cases where the local infrastructure was available, the missions should facilitate the establishment of calling booths using specialized calling cards. DFS would review the feasibility of providing such facilities on a cost-recovery basis. Concerning travel on leave and for recreational purposes, it was found that some lower-paid categories of peacekeeping personnel were unable to participate in welfare flights due to costs. In order to facilitate the charter by personnel of official aircraft for welfare flights, DFS would re-examine the restriction to a maximum of 30 UN civilian personnel allowed on a UN aircraft, as it precluded a reasonable cost per seat. Contingents should be encouraged to establish leave centres inside or outside the mission area where personnel could spend the leave allowed them for rest and recuperation; facilities such as a television lounge, DVD players, books and indoor and outdoor games should be provided at the leave centres.

Another proposed measure was for DFS and DPKO to submit Secretariat issue paper No. 9 for the consideration of the Working Group, recommending the revision of performance standards in the subcategory of welfare with a view to spelling them out in specific terms. Within the framework of the revised mini-
mum standards of welfare provided elsewhere in the Manual, annex G to the model memorandum of understanding, guidelines to troop/police-contributing countries, should include a description of the minimum welfare and recreation facilities that the troop/police-contributing country would be required to furnish for the peacekeeping mission, in order to qualify for reimbursement for the welfare subcategory. Drs and DPKO would submit to the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment an issue paper on the minimum standards of welfare and recreation facilities to be provided by the troop/police-contributing countries’ contingent personnel. In terms of facilities for non-contingent personnel, there was clearly a need for minimum welfare and recreation facilities at duty stations in peacekeeping missions, including “welfare kits”, comprising generic equipment, such as an indoor gymnasium, a multi-purpose recreation centre to be used as an indoor lounge, an Internet cafe and bar, provided with games such as table tennis, darts, board games and refreshments, a television set with a VCR/DVD player and accessories, and a library and a prayer/meditation room. An eventual need was seen for welfare officers and units in peacekeeping missions.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly take note of the measures to be undertaken by the Secretariat as part of its effort to improve the welfare of all categories of peacekeeping personnel, as described in the report, and endorse the need for welfare and recreation arrangements for non-contingent personnel.

Death and disability

In April [A/62/805 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 61/276, section X [YUN 2007, p. 81], reported on the status of cases for death and disability for formed police units, military contingents, civilian police officers and military observers processed and currently in process. As at 28 February, 94 cases for military contingents and formed police units (17 for death and 77 for disability) were under processing and 25 cases were under review for civilian police officers and military observers (3 for death and 22 for disability).

The Secretary-General reported on the comprehensive review of the administrative and payment arrangement for such cases. The Secretariat had initiated a review of the procedures for settlement of death and disability claims. As the issues to be discussed were cross-cutting in nature and would impact the work process in several departments, a working group was established to review the current methodology and suggest measures.

The Secretary-General submitted a November report [A/63/550] on the comprehensive review of compensation of death and disability benefits, which updated the status of cases for death and disability for formed police units, military contingents, civilian police officers and military observers processed and in process. As at 30 September, 120 cases for military contingents and formed police units (14 for death and 106 for disability) were being processed, and 23 cases were being reviewed for civilian police officers and military observers (7 for death and 16 for disability). Of those cases, 93 were awaiting further information from Member States, and 50 involved additional information requested from field missions.

In its review of the rules and methodology of the administrative and payment arrangements, the Secretariat examined the issue of equal treatment of members of military contingents, formed police units, military observers and civilian police officers. Under the current system, award for death or disability depended on the nature of deployment of the uniformed personnel. While beneficiaries of deceased military contingent and formed police unit members were awarded a maximum payment of $50,000, beneficiaries of civilian police officers and military observers might receive much more than $50,000, even at the same rank, if their last annual salary less allowances exceeded $25,000. To remedy that situation, the Secretariat recommended an award of $50,000 to all categories of uniformed personnel, and that the General Assembly approve the application of the methodology enumerated in the Secretary-General’s 1977 report on death and disability benefits [YUN 1997, p. 61] and followed for contingent/formed police personnel in death and disability cases related to military observers, civilian police officers and other seconded uniformed personnel, so as to standardize the process for all categories of uniformed personnel and enable the quick resolution of most cases.

The Working Group also looked at the possible establishment of a deadline for the completion and submission of board of inquiry reports in cases of suspected gross negligence or wilful misconduct. Death and disability cases for troops/formed police units were processed without waiting for a board of inquiry report when the force commander/police commissioner confirmed that there had been no evidence in the investigation to indicate any gross negligence or wilful misconduct on the part of the contingent/formed police unit member. In such cases, however, a board of inquiry report was mandatory. To standardize the board of inquiry procedures and speed up the process, the Secretariat issued a policy directive and standard operating procedures effective 1 June. Those documents directed the missions to complete the board of inquiry proceedings as soon as possible, preferably within four weeks. In order to ensure the timely completion of board of inquiry proceedings on cases of a highly technical nature or where special-
ized skills were required, the new policy enabled the Under-Secretaries-Generals of dpko and dfs to establish a headquarters board of inquiry, drawing on the resources and skills of UN Headquarters and the missions.

The Assembly was requested to approve the application of the methodology and reimbursement rates followed to settle contingent/formed police unit death or disability claims in cases related to the death or disability of military observers/civilian police officers/other seconded uniformed personnel in peacekeeping missions; to establish a uniform death compensation of $50,000 and a proportionate amount for permanent disability or loss of function; and to allow the Secretariat to request appropriate medical/supporting documentation without placing any limit on the number of requests to Member States.

Training

**Note of Secretary-General.** In a February note [A/62/676], the Secretary-General reported on the preparation of a comprehensive report on training in peacekeeping, as requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 60/266 [YUN 2006, p. 89] and 60/267 [ibid., p. 102]. The report would cover the efficiency and effectiveness of all dpko training programmes to be implemented by unlb, and compare them to those provided by other facilities and UN offices.

Since 1 November 2005, all dpko training elements at Headquarters (police, military and civilian) had been merged to form the Integrated Training Service. For cost-saving reasons, the Service’s Training Delivery Section was relocated to unlb in the 2006–2007 budget year, and was fully staffed from early 2008. Subsequently, since the creation of dfs, a full review of the Service’s priorities and focus had been undertaken and a training strategy formulated within dpko and dfs, and with Member States. The strategy would be implemented over the next year and would include a review of the training needs of Member States, field missions and Headquarters.

As a result of the refocusing of the efforts of the Integrated Training Service, the Secretary-General was unable to submit a report on training in peacekeeping for consideration in 2008. While much work had been done to improve training for peacekeeping operations, further work was needed to finalize and implement the new Integrated Training Service strategy, conduct a comprehensive training needs analysis and validate the findings and recommendations. It was expected that the complete report on training in peacekeeping operations would be submitted to the Assembly at its resumed sixty-third (2009) session.

The Assembly, by decision 62/545 C of 20 June, deferred consideration of the Secretary-General’s note on the comprehensive report on training in peacekeeping until its sixty-third (2009) session.

**Special Committee consideration.** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2008 substantive session [A/62/19], reaffirmed the need to ensure that all personnel selected for peacekeeping missions had the required professional background, expertise and training. It noted the Secretariat’s work on the development of a UN peacekeeping training strategy, and requested that the strategy be provided to the Special Committee. It also noted the ongoing work of the Integrated Training Service on the development of minimum training standards and training modules, and requested a detailed progress report before its next substantive session. It took note of the recognition process by the Integrated Training Service of courses conducted by peacekeeping and training institutions using standardized training modules. Noting the suspension of the process, it stressed the need to develop a mechanism for resuming that activity and for expanding and speeding up the recognition process. An integrated mission planning process training package should be put in place and made an integral part of the UN senior mission leadership training. The Special Committee looked forward to receiving more information on steps taken by the Secretariat to enhance predeployment training capacity for police personnel and facilitate bilateral training assistance.

The Special Committee called for the finalization of the first specialized training modules for police and their dissemination to Member States and peacekeeping operations in the six official languages and their distribution, to be supplemented by dpko training of the trainers courses. It looked forward to receiving a report on the development of the senior mission administrative and resource training.

The Special Committee called upon the Secretariat to develop training standards and operating guidelines for formed police units, in consultation with Member States, and to improve the quality of standardized training modules on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, and called upon the Member States to utilize them. Dpko should continue providing information, training materials and training modules on issues related to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS to be used during predeployment training of peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee supported the development of an electronic learning tool for generic peacekeeping lessons to be used by Member States’ national or multinational peacekeeping training institutions, and encouraged the Integrated Training Service to evaluate the option of web-based training modules for all peacekeeping mission personnel. The Secretariat was encouraged to further contribute to the development
of online peacekeeping programmes available in all UN official languages and easily accessible by candidates from developing countries. The Special Committee urged DPKO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to work together to promote existing electronic learning programmes and to ensure that their training materials were complementary, and encouraged continued wide participation by African, Latin American and Caribbean peacekeepers in the relevant programmes. The Special Committee reiterated its request for DPKO to develop a comprehensive gender training strategy, and looked forward to receiving information on the issue.

Staffing of field missions

On 3 April, by decision 62/545 B, the General Assembly decided to defer until its sixty-third session the Secretary-General’s reports on the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300- and 100-series appointments [YUN 2007, p. 103] and on detailed proposals for streamlining UN contractual arrangements [ibid., p. 1507].

On the same date, the Assembly, in resolution 62/248 of 3 April (see p. 1615) on human resources management, having considered those reports, as well as the addendum to the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2006 [ibid., p. 1496] and section II of the ACABQ report [ibid., p. 1510], decided to continue consideration of the issue of contractual arrangements and conditions of service, including in UN field operations, at the main part of its sixty-third (2008) session.

On 20 June, the Assembly, by decision 62/549, continued the suspension of the application of the four-year maximum limit for appointments of limited duration until 31 December 2008; authorized the Secretary-General to reappoint, under the 100-series of the Staff Rules, those mission staff whose service under 300-series contracts reached the four-year limit by 31 December 2008, provided that their functions were reviewed and found necessary and their performance was confirmed as fully satisfactory; and requested the Secretary-General to continue the practice of using 300-series contracts as the primary instrument for the appointment of new staff.