

## Chapter I

## International peace and security

The year 2003 was a particularly challenging one for the United Nations in the area of international peace and security. World attention focused on the declaration of war in Iraq and its aftermath, which gave rise to deep divisions in the international community, severely testing the principle of collective security and the resilience of the Organization, and caused questions to be asked regarding the relevance of the United Nations. In December, the General Assembly welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of a High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, the aim of which was to recommend measures for ensuring effective collective action, based on, among other things, a thorough assessment of existing approaches, instruments and mechanisms, including the principal organs of the United Nations.

International terrorism continued to pose a major threat to peace and security. The Security Council held a high-level meeting in January at which it adopted a declaration aimed at reinforcing the international community's mobilization against terrorism. It also examined the work of its Counter-Terrorism Committee throughout the year.

Both the Council and the Assembly continued to focus on the prevention and resolution of conflict and the provision of assistance to countries emerging from conflict. In July, the Assembly emphasized the importance of a comprehensive and coherent strategy for the prevention of conflict and adopted the Secretary-General's recommendations in that regard. In follow-up to that resolution, the Assembly, in September, held an open interactive dialogue on the role of civil society in the prevention of armed conflict. In the context of the international conflict-prevention strategy, the Council and the Assembly strongly supported the adoption of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to regulate the sale of rough diamonds. The Council examined its continuing role in the settlement of disputes, and both the Council and the Secretariat held high-level meetings with regional organizations on ways to meet the new challenges to international peace and security. The Council also considered issues relating to the rule of law in post-conflict situations. The Organization

maintained 15 political and peace-building missions during 2003.

Efforts to streamline and better manage the Organization's peacekeeping operations included strengthening of the rapid deployment and standby arrangements system and development of a detailed plan for the phased establishment of the strategic deployment stocks system at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy. The Council considered several peacekeeping-related issues, including gender mainstreaming in all peacekeeping activities and the Secretariat's efforts to develop a coherent policy towards that end, the role of HIV/AIDS and efforts to reduce the risk of peacekeepers contracting or transmitting the disease while on mission, issues related to peacekeeping and the international legal system and the role mine action could play in peacekeeping operations. The safety of UN peacekeepers and associated humanitarian personnel was a priority issue, especially in the light of the bombing of the UN mission in Iraq, in which 22 international and local staff died, including the Secretary-General's Special Representative, and many more were injured. In May, the Assembly decided to donate, as the Secretary-General had done, its portion of the financial award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund, created by the Secretary-General to provide financial assistance for the education of children of UN civilian personnel killed in the line of duty. During the year, the United Nations created one new peacekeeping mission and one mission completed its mandate. At the end of 2003, the number of missions in operation totalled 13, the same as in 2002, and the number of military personnel and civilian police serving under UN command stood at 45,815.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which met in March, made recommendations on procedures for consultations with troop-contributing countries, action to enhance UN peacekeeping capacity and increased cooperation with regional arrangements.

The positive financial position of UN peacekeeping operations continued during the financial period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. As a result of scaled-down activities due to the closure of missions and the creation of only one new mis-

sion during that period, expenditure decreased slightly to \$2,501 million, compared to a final figure of \$2,572 million for the previous financial period. Unpaid assessed contributions also declined to \$1.1 billion, compared to \$1.2 billion the previous year. The Assembly considered various aspects of peacekeeping financing, including the peacekeeping support account, the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base, the liquidation of closed missions, the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, proposals for consolidating peacekeeping accounts, the management of peacekeeping trust funds, reimbursement issues, and procurement and inventory management. It also considered a number of personnel issues, including recruitment policies and procedures.

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## **Promotion of international peace and security**

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### **Follow-up to Millennium Summit (2000)**

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/145 [YUN 2002, p. 41], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/58/323] (see also p. 1385) on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted at the Millennium Summit in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 49]. The Secretary-General evaluated progress made or not made in the areas of peace and security, development, and human rights and democracy, and re-examined some of the underlying assumptions of the Declaration, observing that it could no longer be taken for granted that the multilateral institutions were strong enough to cope with all the challenges facing them. He said that, since the Millennium Summit [ibid., p. 47], the international community had had to deal with both new and old threats to international peace and security. However, the climate of cooperation and consensus that was evident following the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 60], in terms of the global condemnation, swift adoption of anti-terrorism measures and support for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, was seriously eroded by the war against Iraq (see p. 333). That war exposed deep divisions in the international community and brought to the fore questions of principle and practice that challenged the United Nations and the international community. The Secretary-General stressed that it was vitally important that the international community not allow those differences to persist but to find unity of purpose based on a common security agenda, which

should reflect a global consensus on the major threats to peace and security. Such an agenda should strengthen international solidarity based on the shared universal values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and not shy away from the need to improve and, where necessary, change the structure and functions of the United Nations and other international institutions. He said that the great strength of the United Nations remained its legitimacy, founded on the principles of international law, for which there was no substitute in the international arena. The conduct of international affairs should, therefore, be in conformity with those principles. The United Nations itself was at a critical juncture, and unless the Security Council regained the confidence of States and of world public opinion, individual States would increasingly resort to their own national perceptions of emerging threats and to their own judgement on how best to address them. To forestall such a development, the United Nations would have to demonstrate its ability to deal effectively with the most difficult issues. In particular, the ability of the Council to garner the widest possible support for its decisions and actions would be enhanced if it was perceived to be broadly representative of the international community and the geopolitical realities of the contemporary world. The Secretary-General hoped, therefore, that Member States would redouble their efforts to reach agreement on the enlargement of the Council.

The Secretary-General also addressed other peace and security issues, such as the need to strengthen and complement existing weapons of mass destruction regimes (see p. 532), the threat posed by small arms and the need for cooperation in tightening export controls and facilitating the identification of sources of illicit weapons (see p. 562), sanctions, terrorism (see p. 63), prevention of violent conflict (see p. 54) and peacekeeping and peace-building.

The collective record of achievement in implementing the commitments of the Millennium Declaration in the area of peace and security was mixed, the Secretary-General concluded. To improve on that record, greater efforts were needed to produce innovative reforms, to be candid in evaluating existing mechanisms and working methods, and to engage in meaningful dialogues on the principles and practices that should guide the Organization in the years ahead. Above all, it was necessary to be intensely aware of the changes in the international security environment. Current challenges to peace and security were global and required complex and collective responses. Legitimacy of action, which might include military action, was essential to ensuring

durable solutions to the security needs of the times, and the Charter remained the indispensable basis for legitimate international action. The world looked to the United Nations to address global security threats with the global interest in mind. Therefore, a renewed commitment to work collectively, in accordance with the Charter, was needed. A collective security system built on fairness and consistency would be the best way to meet both old and new challenges.

### High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

The Secretary-General, presenting his annual report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3) to the General Assembly on 23 September [A/58/PV.7], said that events over the preceding 12 months had called into question the shared vision of global solidarity and security expressed in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49]. He announced his intention to establish a high-level panel of eminent personalities to examine current challenges to peace and security; consider the contribution that collective action could make in addressing those challenges; review the functioning of major UN organs and the relationship between them; and recommend ways of strengthening the United Nations, through reform of its institutions and processes. The panel would focus primarily on threats to peace and security but would also examine other global challenges, insofar as they might influence or connect with those threats. He would ask the panel to report to him before the beginning of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly in 2004.

By a 3 November letter [A/58/612], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly President the terms of reference of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, to be chaired by Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand, and comprising eminent persons from Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Ghana, India, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States and Uruguay.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 3 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 58/16** [draft: A/58/L.7/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 60].

#### Responding to global threats and challenges

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/162 of 14 December 2000, 56/95 of 14 December 2001 and 57/144 of 16 December 2002 on the follow-up to the outcome of the

Millennium Summit, and its resolution 57/145 of 16 December 2002,

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the coordinating and leading role of the United Nations in establishing a cohesive and effective system for responding to global threats and challenges, and welcoming the ongoing efforts of Member States and the Secretary-General to this end,

*Recognizing* the importance, in the context of implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, of a comprehensive approach aimed at addressing global threats and challenges in accordance with the Charter, international law and relevant international instruments,

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the observations contained therein on ways and means to promote further, with the United Nations lead, a more comprehensive and coherent response to the global threats and challenges of the twenty-first century,

*Taking note* of the letter dated 3 November 2003 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly regarding the establishment of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change,

1. *Commends* the increased interaction of Member States, the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and the international and regional organizations cooperating with the United Nations, aimed at countering various global threats and challenges, in particular those posed by international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, transnational organized crime, regional conflicts, poverty, unsustainable development, illicit drug trafficking, money-laundering, infectious diseases, environmental degradation, natural disasters, complex emergency situations and others;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States and relevant regional and other organizations for submitting to the Secretary-General their contributions on the issues referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 57/145;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations, its Member States, the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations to continue their efforts towards establishing a comprehensive and effective strategy for responding to global threats and challenges;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to make recommendations for the elements of a collective action, and expresses its readiness to consider as a matter of priority at its fifty-ninth session the recommendations of the Secretary-General thereon.

#### Conflict prevention

On 3 July [meeting 93], the General Assembly, having considered the Secretary-General's 2001 report on the prevention of armed conflict [YUN 2001, p. 48], adopted **resolution 57/337** [draft: A/57/L.79] without vote [agenda item 10].

### Prevention of armed conflict

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* Chapter VI and Article 2.3 of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling also* the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as contained in its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960,

*Recognizing* that multilateral cooperation under United Nations auspices could be an effective means to prevent armed conflict and to address its root causes,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the principles of the political independence, the sovereign equality and the territorial integrity of all States,

*Guided* by the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, annexed to its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict,

*Bearing in mind* its responsibilities, functions and powers under the Charter of the United Nations, and thus recalling all its relevant resolutions in matters related to the question of the prevention of armed conflict,

*Recalling* all Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention of armed conflict, and noting all Security Council presidential statements related to this matter,

*Recognizing* that the prevention of armed conflict and the peaceful settlement of disputes could be useful tools for the United Nations in order to build a solid foundation for peace,

*Alarmed* by the human costs and devastating humanitarian, economic, environmental, political and social consequences of armed conflict, and recognizing the imperatives, including moral, of the prevention of armed conflict and its benefits for peace and development, in particular by addressing the root causes of armed conflict,

*Recognizing* that peace and development are mutually reinforcing, including in the prevention of armed conflict,

*Recognizing also* the importance of humanitarian assistance in ensuring an effective transition from conflict to peace and in preventing the recurrence of armed conflict,

*Affirming* that the fulfilment of the obligation to respect and ensure respect in all circumstances for the provisions of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, will enhance the prospects for the peaceful resolution of armed conflict and for the prevention of its occurrence and recurrence,

*Affirming also* that full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is one of the key elements for the prevention of armed conflict,

*Recognizing* that the root causes of armed conflict are multidimensional in nature, thus requiring a comprehensive and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflict,

*Determined* to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and

principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and upholding the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right of self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, and recognizing the continued inter-religious dialogues and the promotion of religious harmony as contributions to the prevention of armed conflict,

*Affirming* that the ethnic, cultural and religious identity of minorities, where they exist, must be protected, and that persons belonging to such minorities should be treated equally and enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind,

*Resolving* to take appropriate measures, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, combined with the efforts of Member States, to prevent armed conflicts,

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

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of a comprehensive and coherent strategy comprising short-term operational and long-term structural measures for the prevention of armed conflict, and recognizes the ten principles outlined in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of Member States for the prevention of armed conflict, recalls the important role of the United Nations in this regard, and invites Member States, where appropriate, to adopt national strategies, taking into account, inter alia, those ten principles, as well as such elements as multilateral and regional cooperation, mutual benefit, sovereign equality, transparency and confidence-building measures;

4. *Encourages* Member States to utilize regional arrangements or agencies, where available, for the peaceful settlement of their disputes;

5. *Reiterates its call upon* the Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means as set forth in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, including by the most effective use of the International Court of Justice;

6. *Resolves* that all Member States strictly adhere to their obligations as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Calls upon* the parties to any dispute, the continuation of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, to seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice in accordance with Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, especially should the parties to such a dispute fail to settle it by the means indicated in paragraph 7 above in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and also notes in this regard the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes;

9. *Emphasizes* that the prevention of armed conflict would be promoted by continued cooperation among Member States, the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and regional and sub-regional organizations, noting that the private sector and civil society have supporting roles to play;

10. *Reaffirms*, in the context of the prevention of armed conflict, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and of acts of colonization, and affirms the need to bring an end to situations of foreign occupation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law;

11. *Recognizes* the need for mainstreaming and coordinating the prevention of armed conflict throughout the United Nations system, and calls upon all its relevant organs, organizations and bodies to consider, in accordance with their respective mandates, how they could best include a conflict prevention perspective in their activities, where appropriate, and to inform the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 55/281 of 1 August 2001, no later than at its fifty-ninth session, of progress achieved in this regard;

12. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to abide by the resolve of the Millennium Assembly to make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention;

13. *Calls for* strengthening the capacity of the United Nations in order to carry out more effectively its responsibilities for the prevention of armed conflict, including relevant peace-building and development activities, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed review of the capacity of the United Nations system in the context of the report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States and the organs, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in accordance with resolution 55/281, for consideration no later than at its fifty-ninth session;

15. *Decides* to adopt the conclusions and recommendations, based on its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

16. *Decides also* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session a specific item entitled "Prevention of armed conflict".

#### **Annex**

#### **General Assembly conclusions and recommendations on the prevention of armed conflict**

##### *The General Assembly*

#### **Role of Member States**

1. *Calls upon* Member States to achieve the goals embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development

goals, as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

2. *Calls in this regard upon* Member States and the international community at large to support poverty eradication measures and the development strategies of developing countries;

3. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of providing 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets;

4. *Encourages* greater transparency in armaments by Member States, as appropriate, including broader and more active participation in the United Nations instruments relating to arms registers and military expenditures, and calls upon them strongly to support confidence-building measures in this area;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to implement the obligations assumed by them as States parties to treaties in such areas as arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament and to strengthen their international verification instruments;

6. *Reaffirms* the resolve of the international community to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction;

7. *Invites* Member States that have not already done so to consider, as appropriate, becoming parties to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament treaties;

8. *Urges* Member States, as well as relevant United Nations bodies, to take appropriate measures to fully implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

9. *Urges* Member States which have not already done so to consider ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to the international human rights and international humanitarian law instruments, and also other international instruments relevant to the prevention of armed conflict;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to comply in good faith with the obligations assumed by them as States parties to international legal instruments relevant to the prevention of armed conflict;

11. *Notes* the entry into force on 1 July 2002 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the subsequent establishment of the International Criminal Court;

12. *Stresses* the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity as a significant contribution towards the promotion of a culture of prevention;

13. *Also stresses* the important role that women, in their various capacities, and with their expertise, training and knowledge, can play with regard to the prevention of armed conflict, in all its aspects, and calls for the strengthening of that role in all relevant institutions at the national, regional and international levels;

14. *Urges* Member States to make the most effective use of existing and new procedures and methods for

the peaceful settlement of their disputes, including, as appropriate, arbitration, mediation and other treaty-based arrangements, and the International Court of Justice, to settle their disputes in a peaceful manner and thereby promote the role of international law in international relations;

15. *Emphasizes* the need, at all levels of society and among nations, for strengthening freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding as important elements for preventing armed conflict;

16. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national capacities for addressing structural risk factors, as deemed useful by national Governments, with the support, as appropriate, of the international community, including the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and regional and sub-regional organizations;

#### **Role of the General Assembly**

17. *Expresses its determination* to make more effective use of its powers under Articles 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17 of the Charter of the United Nations for the prevention of armed conflict;

18. *Intends* to make fuller use of Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations;

19. *Decides* to consider ways of enhancing interaction with the other United Nations organs, especially the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, and with the Secretary-General in terms of developing and implementing long- and short-term measures and strategies aimed at preventing armed conflict;

#### **Role of the Security Council**

20. *Takes note* of the provisions contained in Security Council resolution 1366(2001) of 30 August 2001, in particular the commitment of the Council to take early and effective action to prevent armed conflict;

21. *Encourages* the Security Council to give prompt consideration to early warning or prevention cases brought to its attention by the Secretary-General, and to use appropriate mechanisms, such as the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, with due regard to relevant regional and subregional dimensions, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations;

22. *Further encourages* the Security Council to keep under close review situations of potential armed conflict and to consider seriously cases of potential armed conflict brought to its attention by a State or the General Assembly or on the basis of information furnished by the Economic and Social Council;

23. *Recognizes* that the United Nations can continue to play an important role in the prevention of armed conflict by promoting conflict resolution and dispute settlement;

24. *Encourages* the continued strengthening of the process of the peaceful settlement of disputes and efforts to make it more effective;

25. *Notes* the commitment of the Security Council to make wider and effective use of the procedures and means enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in Chapter VI, as one of the essential components of its work to promote and maintain international peace and security;

26. *Reaffirms* that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, for which the prevention of armed conflict is important, is conferred upon the Security Council, and reiterates that, under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Members of the United Nations have agreed to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter;

27. *Recommends* that the Security Council continue to mandate peacekeeping operations and include, as appropriate, peace-building elements therein, in such a way as to generate conditions which, to the maximum extent possible, help to avoid the recurrence of armed conflict;

28. *Encourages* the Security Council to continue to invite the office of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and other relevant United Nations agencies to brief its members on emergency situations which it deems to represent a threat to international peace and security, and to support the implementation of protection and assistance activities by relevant United Nations agencies in accordance with their respective mandates;

29. *Notes* the willingness of the Security Council to consider, in the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations, preventive deployments with the consent and cooperation of the Member States concerned;

30. *Encourages* the Security Council to give, as appropriate, greater attention to gender perspectives in all its activities aimed at the prevention of armed conflict;

31. *Encourages* the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to strengthen their mutual cooperation and coordination, in accordance with their respective mandates, for the prevention of armed conflict;

#### **Role of the Economic and Social Council**

32. *Supports* the more active involvement of the Economic and Social Council with regard to the prevention of armed conflict, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Secretary-General and the need to promote socio-economic measures, including economic growth, in support of poverty eradication and development, as a core element of Council strategy in that regard;

33. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, which envisages the creation of ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflicts, as well as Council decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002, by which the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau was created, requests the Council to present a report on the lessons learned by the ad hoc advisory groups during its substantive session of 2004, and recommends that such endeavours be further strengthened, including through measures that promote more effective responses in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations system as a whole, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

#### **Role of the Secretary-General**

34. *Welcomes* the intention of the Security Council to engage within the United Nations system in a focused dialogue on what practical measures the United Nations system needs to take to promote greater coher-

ence in its activities aimed at the prevention of armed conflict, and recommends that consideration be given, inter alia, to identifying the proper framework for the elaboration of system-wide coherent and action-oriented strategies within the United Nations system, at Headquarters and in the field, and for rationalizing the funding procedures for the prevention of armed conflict;

35. *Recalls*, in that context, the need to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for early warning, collection of information and analysis, as referred to in its resolution 47/120 A of 18 December 1992, and notes the relevant conclusions and recommendations endorsed in its resolution 56/225 of 24 December 2001;

36. *Supports* the intention of the Secretary-General to improve the use of means placed at his disposal and within his authority to facilitate the prevention of armed conflict, including through fact-finding missions and confidence-building measures;

**Interaction between the United Nations and other international actors in the prevention of armed conflict: role of regional organizations and civil society**

*Regional organizations*

37. *Calls* for the strengthening of cooperation, where appropriate, between the United Nations and regional organizations in the field of prevention of armed conflict, in accordance with their respective mandates, in particular in capacity-building and the coordination of their respective activities, and for that purpose requests the Secretary-General to present concrete proposals for enhancing Secretariat support of those activities within his comprehensive report;

38. *Encourages* the continuation of high-level United Nations/regional organizations meetings, including on the prevention of armed conflict, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed accordingly;

*Civil society*

39. *Recognizes* the important supporting role of civil society in the prevention of armed conflict, and invites it to continue to support efforts for the prevention of armed conflict and to pursue practices that foster a climate of peace, help to prevent or mitigate crisis situations and contribute to reconciliation.

Speaking after the adoption of the resolution, the Deputy Secretary-General said that, after two years of hard work, the Assembly had its first substantive resolution on the important issue of armed conflict prevention; she hoped it would become a landmark for UN efforts in that area. The Secretariat was committed to strengthening the capacity of the UN system to carry out more effectively its responsibilities for the prevention of armed conflict. It would submit a detailed review of the UN system capacity in the context of the comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution that the Assembly had requested in paragraph 14.

**Related action.** The Security Council, on 30 January, adopted **resolution 1460(2003)** on chil-

dren and armed conflict (see p. 788). The Council President issued, on 15 December, statement **S/PRST/2003/27** on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (see p. 727).

**Role of civil society in conflict prevention**

Following the adoption of resolution 57/337 (see p. 50), the President of the General Assembly's fifty-seventh session organized, on 4 September, an open interactive dialogue on the role of civil society in the prevention of armed conflict. The aim of the meeting was to build on the momentum of the resolution in terms of follow-up activities; explore how best to link the work of civil society in conflict prevention with that of Governments and the United Nations; offer substantive content for permanent missions in New York to consider the core issues and respond to the concerns, questions and ideas of Member States; and update Member States about the work of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (see below).

In his report on the meeting, transmitted to the Assembly on 12 September [A/57/864], the Assembly President said that civil society organizations provided an array of capabilities and opportunities to supplement the role of Governments and the United Nations in conflict prevention. They could sometimes reach parties on the ground that Governments could not reach, and participants in the dialogue had noted that civil society organizations could also contribute to conflict prevention in the areas of analysis, partnership, sustainability and networks. However, interacting and coordinating with civil society remained a challenge for Governments and the United Nations; how to create strategic linkages among Governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to complement each other's work rather than impede or duplicate efforts was not well understood.

The Assembly President noted that, in response to the Secretary-General's 2001 report on the prevention of armed conflict [YUN 2001, p. 48], the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict was established to engage civil society actors from the grass roots to the international level in integrating and mainstreaming conflict prevention, with a view to improving international responses in preventing conflict at all levels. Its goals were: to explore fully the role of civil society in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; to develop a coherent body of research and theory to help the conflict prevention community play its full part in the international debate; to improve interaction between civil society groups, the United Nations, regional organizations and Governments; and to strengthen re-

gional and international networking between conflict prevention actors. Secretariats for the project had been established at the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (Utrecht, Netherlands), with the UN-NGO (non-governmental organization) Conflict Prevention Working Group (New York), and in each region. Regional conferences to produce mutually agreed-upon regional plans of action would be followed by an international conference (New York, June 2005). Among the expected outcomes of the process were: regional publications documenting lessons learned and best practices; regional and international plans of action to guide conflict prevention initiatives; a global network of conflict prevention actors; commitments from Member States to realign existing conflict management mechanisms towards prevention; and support for Member States in their efforts to prevent conflict.

The President stated that the open meeting had shown that, while many questions and concerns existed about the engagement with civil society organizations, there was clear support for exploring and understanding the issues that would strengthen the partnerships among Governments, intergovernmental agencies and civil society in preventing deadly conflicts. Participating Member States recommended that: the Assembly examine its role in the prevention of violent conflict as it related to Article 14 of the Charter, and consider whether such issues should be regularly addressed in the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee; the United Nations and Member States support the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict initiative; missions at UN Headquarters appoint a liaison to work with the UN-NGO Conflict Prevention Working Group; UN offices, agencies and programmes link with the Conflict Prevention Working Group and encourage their field offices to liaise with the coordinators of regional conferences; the UN Department of Political Affairs further explore how to establish consultation mechanisms with the Global Partnership in the process of preparing the report to the Assembly's fifty-ninth (2004) session; and Governments continue to support the process financially and other Member States and civil society organizations and foundations aid in the global initiative.

#### **UN role in conflict prevention**

**Reports of Secretary-General.** In a September report [A/58/323] on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], the Secretary-General said that, as part of its efforts to better understand the current challenges and devise strategies to address them more effectively,

the United Nations had to make even greater efforts to prevent the outbreak of violence well before internal tensions and conflicts eroded Governments and economies to the point of collapse. The UN system had been engaged in a comprehensive exercise to implement his 2001 report on the prevention of armed conflict [YUN 2001, p. 48] and to better carry out its obligations, including support of regional, subregional and national efforts to develop preventive strategies. General Assembly **resolution 57/337** (see p. 50) on the prevention of armed conflict gave the United Nations a strong mandate to continue, expand and intensify its conflict prevention activities, and recognized the value of early warning in the prevention of armed conflict. The Secretary-General said that he intended to report more systematically on efforts to strengthen UN capacity in that area in his comprehensive report on conflict prevention, to be submitted in 2004.

He drew attention to the need for effective measures to address the economic incentives that established and maintained war economies, such as the Kimberley Process of diamond certification (see p. 55), and called for further measures against money-laundering. Also, more efforts were needed not only to punish actors involved in war economies but to provide viable economic alternatives.

In response to Assembly resolution 55/281 [YUN 2001, p. 50], the Secretary-General submitted, in September, an interim report on the prevention of armed conflict [A/58/365-S/2003/888], which provided an analytical overview of UN conflict prevention efforts, particularly in the areas of capacity-building, development assistance, human rights, the rule of law, regional dimensions, the role of women, preventive action and terrorism, disarmament, the role of major UN organs and international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and training.

In elaborating a way forward, the Secretary-General said that, while some progress had been made in improving UN conflict prevention capacity, the Organization had to integrate conflict prevention further into its activities and build a more structured link between political and socio-economic strategies, ensuring that conflict prevention became a deliberate component in planning and coordinating development programmes. There should also be greater coherence and coordination of UN efforts in structural prevention at national, regional and international levels. Moreover, the UN system needed to strengthen its capacity for coordinating all international efforts; make further progress in responding to the political economy of armed conflicts, by exploring the policy aspects of the issues

surrounding resource-based intra-State conflicts and the economic agendas of civil war and devising instruments for addressing war economies at all stages of a conflict; and devote greater attention to the potential threats posed by environmental problems, particularly the implications of the scarcity of certain natural resources, including the consideration of ways to build additional capacity to analyse and address potential threats of conflicts emanating from international natural resource disparities. The Secretary-General invited, in the context of resolution 57/337 (see p. 50), Member States, the UN system and its partners, regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society to prepare for a substantial discussion on the way forward.

**Implementation of JIU recommendations.** In an August report [A/58/220] on the implementation of the 1995 recommendations [YUN 1995, p. 177], of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on strengthening the UN system capacity for conflict prevention [A/50/853], the Secretary-General indicated that, since the issuance of that report and his comments and those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon [YUN 1997, p. 37], major developments had taken place in conflict prevention and JIU's recommendations had, in many cases, been implemented system-wide.

**CEB consideration.** The High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), at its sixth session (Rome, Italy, 18-19 September) [CEB/2003/7], emphasized the need for comprehensive system-wide responses to ensure mutual reinforcement in the political, peacekeeping, peace-building and development areas of the system's work and the importance of close interaction with the UN Department of Political Affairs. It also suggested that the UN system would benefit from mechanisms to systematically channel political insights and information accumulated by field staff into the system's situational analysis process.

### Conflict diamonds

**Kimberley Process.** Two meetings of the Kimberley Process, established in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 76] to stem the flow of rough diamonds used by rebels to finance armed conflict, protect the legitimate diamond industry and achieve the creation and implementation of an international certification scheme for rough diamonds based on national certification schemes, were held in 2002 (Ottawa, Canada, 18-20 March, and Interlaken, Switzerland, 4-5 November). At the Interlaken meeting, Ministers and other heads of delegation adopted the Kimberley Process Certi-

fication Scheme, the text of which was annexed to the Interlaken Declaration on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds. They also committed themselves to the simultaneous launch of the Scheme on 1 January 2003 and reaffirmed their determination to monitor the trade in rough diamonds in order to prevent trade in conflict diamonds. South Africa would chair the Process in the first year of implementation.

On 17 January [S/2003/70], South Africa requested the Security Council to delay its consideration of the draft resolution on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (see below) until the Assembly had received the report on the Interlaken Declaration, so as not to pre-empt the debate in the Assembly.

On 29 January [A/57/489], in accordance with Assembly resolution 56/263 [YUN 2002, p. 44], South Africa submitted to the Assembly the final report on the Kimberley Process.

### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 January [meeting 4694], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1459(2003)**. The draft [S/2003/54] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

*The Security Council,*

*Noting with deep concern* the linkage between the illicit trade in rough diamonds from certain regions of the world and the fuelling of armed conflicts that affect international peace and security,

*Recalling* all its relevant resolutions to control the illicit trade in rough diamonds, including resolutions 1173(1998) of 12 June 1998, 1306(2000) of 5 July 2000, 1343(2001) of 7 March 2001, 1385(2001) of 19 December 2001 and 1408(2002) of 6 May 2002,

*Highlighting in particular* resolution 1295(2000) of 18 April 2000, in which the Council welcomed the proposal that led to the adoption of the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds,

*Highlighting* the importance of conflict prevention through efforts to hinder the fuelling of conflicts by illicit trade in rough diamonds, which is the very nature of the Kimberley Process,

*Noting in particular* the importance of the major diamond producing, trading, and processing countries participating in the Kimberley Process system of self-regulation,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments of South Africa, Namibia, Belgium, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Angola, Botswana, Canada and Switzerland for hosting meetings of the Kimberley Process,

*Noting with appreciation* the important contribution made by industry and civil society to the development of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

*Noting* the decision made at the meeting held in Interlaken, Switzerland, on 5 November 2002 to launch the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme beginning on 1 January 2003,

*Welcoming* the progress achieved at the Interlaken meeting in developing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, including the adoption of the Interlaken Declaration,

1. *Strongly supports* the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, as well as the ongoing process to refine and implement the regime, adopted at the Interlaken conference as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds, looks forward to its implementation, and strongly encourages the participants to further resolve outstanding issues;

2. *Welcomes* the voluntary system of industry self-regulation, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds;

3. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential and should be encouraged and facilitated, and urges all Member States to participate actively in the Scheme.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 April [meeting 83], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 57/302** [draft: A/57/L.76/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 27].

#### **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 is 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 urgent action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

*Recognizing also* the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for urgent 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 sup-

ported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, as well as the ongoing process to refine and implement the regime, as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000 and 56/263 of 13 March 2002, in which it called for the development of proposals for a simple and workable international certification scheme for rough diamonds, based primarily on national certification schemes and on internationally agreed minimum standards, under the Kimberley Process,

*Believing* that the introduction of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme should substantially reduce the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and should help to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

*Recalling* the objective of ensuring that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is simple, effective and pragmatic, that it does not impede the present legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, and that it does not hinder the development of the diamond industry,

*Acknowledging* the important initiatives already taken to address the problem of conflict diamonds, in particular by the Governments of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Sierra Leone and by other key producing, exporting and importing countries, and encouraging those Governments to continue the initiatives,

*Acknowledging also* the continued efforts of regional organizations and other groups of countries to curb conflict diamonds,

*Welcoming* the important contribution made by the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, as well as civil society, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

*Welcoming 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 will contribute, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal controls for rough diamonds,

*Recognizing* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme will be credible only if all participants have established internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meet minimum standards,

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

*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,

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

*Welcoming* the Interlaken Declaration, which successfully launched the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to resolution 56/263, and congratulates the Governments, and the representatives of the regional economic integration organizations, the organized diamond industry and civil society participating in the Kimberley Process, on having finalized the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

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

3. *Strongly supports* the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme presented in the form of the document entitled “Kimberley Process Certification Scheme”;

4. *Notes* the commitment made at the Kimberley Process ministerial meeting on 5 November 2002 to ensure that measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds will be consistent with international trade rules;

5. *Welcomes* the decision to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme from 1 January 2003;

6. *Also welcomes* the decision to collate and disseminate relevant statistical data on the production of and international trade in rough diamonds, as a tool for effective implementation;

7. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential and should be encouraged and facilitated, and urges all Member States to participate actively in the Certification Scheme;

8. *Welcomes* the willingness expressed by the Government of South Africa to chair the Kimberley Process during its first year of implementation;

9. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to present to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the process;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled “The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict”.

### Implementation of 1970 Declaration

The General Assembly, by **decision 58/516** of 8 December, included in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security” [YUN 1970, p. 105].

## Peacemaking and peace-building

### Security Council role in settlement of disputes

On 13 May [meeting 4753], the Security Council discussed its role in the pacific settlement of disputes. Addressing the Council, the Secretary-General said that Chapter VI of the UN Charter, which dealt with the pacific settlement of disputes, stood at the heart of the Organization’s system of collective security. While the framers of the Charter understood clearly the need for an enforcement mechanism and provided for the use of force against threats to international peace and security, their hopes for a better world lay in the peaceful resolution of armed conflicts. In recent years, the Council had used Chapter VI in various ways, including direct dialogue with the parties to conflict, working more closely with the Economic and Social Council and with regional and subregional organizations to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa, use of the Secretary-General’s good offices and encouraging him to appoint more special representatives and envoys, and fact-finding missions.

Those efforts had achieved mixed results, raising questions as to what had been learned from those experiences and what could be done better. The Secretary-General referred to the recommendations contained in his 2001 report on the prevention of armed conflict [YUN 2001, p. 48], in particular the use of regional prevention mechanisms, more frequent resort to the International Court of Justice and increased reporting by the UN system to the Security Council about serious violations of international law or of human rights, and about potential conflicts arising from ethnic, religious or territorial disputes, or from poverty or other factors. He suggested that the Council could help identify and address root causes early; ensure an integrated approach that would bring together all actors, including civil society; and support other UN organs in their efforts to resolve disputes or address volatile situations. He appealed to the Council to be imaginative, to use its influence and to focus on implementation and action.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 May [meeting 4753], following consultations among the Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2003/5** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirms its commitment to maintain international peace and security through effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace or other breaches of the peace and to bring

about, by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.

The Council recognizes that the United Nations and its organs can play an important role in preventing disputes arising between parties, in preventing existing disputes escalating into conflicts and in containing and resolving the conflicts when they occur. The Council recalls, in this regard, the successes of the United Nations in these areas.

The Council recalls that the Charter, particularly Chapter VI, sets forth the means and a framework for the pacific settlement of disputes.

The Council underscores the fact that efforts to strengthen the process of the peaceful settlement of disputes should be continued and made more effective.

The Council reiterates its commitment to make a wider and more effective use of the procedures and means enshrined in the provisions of the Charter regarding the pacific settlement of disputes, particularly Articles 33 to 38 (Chapter VI), as one of the essential components of its work to promote and maintain international peace and security.

The Council decides to continue to keep this item under review.

### Cooperation with regional organizations

**Security Council public meeting.** On 11 April [meeting 4739], the Security Council held a high-level meeting with representatives of regional organizations (the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States) on the theme “The Security Council and regional organizations: facing the new challenges to international peace and security”.

In a summary of the discussions, transmitted to the Secretary-General on 25 April [S/2003/506], Mexico reported that the meeting provided an opportunity for sharing experiences regarding specific capacities, instruments for early warning, prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and exchange of information. Among the issues discussed were the need to pay attention to the root causes of instability and threats to peace and security and to find new ways of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of peace and security. That cooperation should be based on the principle of complementarity so as to make the best use of the comparative advantages of each organization; it should also take place within a flexible framework. There was also a need to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The meeting proposed: holding a regular high-level dialogue between the Council and regional organizations; improving the exchange of information; establishing a global system to deal with the current challenges and threats to international peace and security; promoting early coordination between the Council and regional organizations before decisions were taken that might involve or affect them; and convening an international conference on international peace, under UN auspices, preceded by regional meetings on the subject.

**High-level meeting between the UN and regional organizations.** The fifth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations (New York, 29-30 July) was held under the theme “New challenges to international peace and security, including international terrorism”. The 21 participating organizations examined potential threats to international security, such as civil wars and complex emergencies, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, gross violations of human rights, genocide, organized crime and other threats, such as environmental degradation and the spread of diseases. As Chairman of the meeting, the Secretary-General transmitted the conclusions in identical letters to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council on 10 October [A/58/444-S/2003/1022]. He said that the meeting raised important questions relating to the strengthening of cooperation to respond to new challenges and reviewed the follow-up to its previous meetings on cooperation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding [YUN 2001, p. 56]. The meeting also reaffirmed support for multilateralism and international institutions and for the international community to provide effective responses to current challenges to international peace and security. Concern was expressed by many that human rights should not be undermined in counter-terrorism efforts. Participants agreed on a framework for further cooperation in confronting challenges to international peace and security, including international terrorism.

**Report of Secretary-General.** The Secretary-General, in his report on the work of the Organization [A/58/1], gave examples of United Nations cooperation with regional organizations in the areas of peace and security, development and respect for human rights (see p. 12).

### Electoral assistance

In his annual report on the work of the Organization [A/58/1], the Secretary-General stated that, from September 2002 to July 2003, the United Nations received 32 official requests for electoral

assistance. Positive responses were provided to 20 of those requests, 9 remained under consideration and 3 could not be fulfilled.

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/159 [YUN 2001, p. 640], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization [A/58/212]. He said that the Organization provided four categories of electoral assistance: technical assistance; the organization and conduct of elections; observation or monitoring of elections; and participation where elections were expected to play a significant role in the peace-building phase of political negotiations. The last category was a relatively recent development, and experience suggested that it was highly valuable and should be encouraged. The provision of electoral assistance as a component of peacekeeping and peace-building missions had increased. Over the preceding two years, the Electoral Assistance Division had worked with major UN missions in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone. That was in part a reflection of the role that elections could play in solidifying peace-building efforts and providing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms that could replace the use of violence.

(For further information on UN electoral assistance, see p. 736.)

### Justice and the rule of law

The Secretary-General, in a January report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/57/711], stated that the Executive Committee on Peace and Security Task Force for the Development of Comprehensive Rule-of-Law Strategies for Peace Operations had prepared a detailed report identifying rule-of-law-related expertise available within the UN system for assisting the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and field missions; governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that might be able to provide such expertise; possible arrangements for UN partners; and guidelines, manuals and handbooks for rule-of-law-related activities developed by the UN system. The Task Force proposals emphasized the need for the United Nations to consult more closely with local actors at the country level and engage them in a meaningful way in devising and undertaking rule-of-law initiatives in peace operations, so as not to impose a rule-of-law strategy on them.

The Special Committee, at its 2003 session [A/57/767], agreed that an essential element to sus-

tained stability in a post-conflict environment was the strengthening and consolidation of local rule-of-law capacity, which should be the focus of attention of UN peacekeeping missions. It welcomed the report of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security Task Force (see above) and asked the Secretariat to report on the implementation of those recommendations in 2004, and to consult with Member States on the means for sharing information on available national rule-of-law resources with the Secretariat.

**Security Council consideration.** At a ministerial-level meeting on 24 September [meeting 4833] and on 30 September [meeting 4835], the Security Council discussed the issue of justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role. Opening the debate on 24 September, the Council President said that justice and the rule of law were vital for the proper functioning of States and were essential elements in creating and sustaining stable, peaceful and democratic States. The debate was therefore an opportunity to affirm again the central importance of the rule of law and justice in the work of the United Nations, and to ascertain how the international community could better prepare to support States coming out of conflict.

The Secretary-General stated that the Council had a responsibility to promote justice and the rule of law in its efforts to maintain international peace and security and to rebuild shattered societies. Through its many complex operations, the United Nations had learned that people lost faith in a peace process when they did not feel safe from crime, secure in returning to their homes, able to start rebuilding a normal life or confident that the injustices of the past would be addressed. Without credible machinery to enforce the law and resolve disputes, people resorted to violent or illegal means. A comprehensive approach to justice and the rule of law was required that encompassed the entire criminal justice chain and many issues beyond the criminal justice system. UN actions should be based on the Charter, UN standards for human rights and the administration of justice and the principles of international humanitarian law, human rights law, refugee law and criminal law. Local actors should be involved from the start, with the United Nations guiding and reinforcing, and leaving behind strong local institutions when it departed.

As to justice for victims of past crimes, ending the climate of impunity was vital to restoring public confidence and building international support to implement peace agreements. Transitional justice mechanisms had to concentrate not only on individual responsibility for serious crimes, but also on achieving national reconcilia-

tion. Criminal justice mechanisms should be tailored to meet the needs of victims and victim societies, with courts being supplemented with mechanisms such as truth and reconciliation commissions if necessary. There should be no amnesty for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, but the rights of the accused should be scrupulously protected.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 September [meeting 4833], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2003/15** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council met at the ministerial level on 24 September 2003 to consider "Justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role". Ministers expressed their respective views and understandings on, and reaffirmed the vital importance of, these issues, recalling the repeated emphasis given to them in the work of the Council, for example in the context of the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in relation to peacekeeping operations and in connection with international criminal justice.

The statements made on 24 September demonstrated the abundant wealth of relevant experience and expertise that exists within the United Nations system and in the Member States. Ministers considered that it would be appropriate to examine further how to harness and direct this expertise and experience so that it would be more readily accessible to the Council, to the wider United Nations membership and to the international community as a whole, so that the lessons and experience of the past could be, as appropriate, learned and built on. The Council welcomed in particular the offer by the Secretary-General to provide a report which could guide and inform further consideration of these matters.

The Council invites all Members of the United Nations, and other parts of the United Nations system with relevant experience and expertise, to contribute to this process of reflection and analysis on these matters, beginning with the further meeting on this subject which will be convened on 30 September 2003.

During the Council's continued consideration of the issue on 30 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said that it was time to fundamentally rethink the way in which the United Nations addressed the rule of law in post-conflict societies. The rule of law should figure more prominently from the early stages of peace negotiations, be recognized as a key element of any post-conflict effort, and be reflected by political actors and donors when drafting peace agreements, adopting and interpreting peacekeeping mandates and funding programmes.

Highlighting some of the steps taken over the preceding year to enhance UN rule-of-law capacities, the Under-Secretary-General pointed to the establishment, in February, of the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit within DPKO's Civilian Police Division. Rule-of-law focal points in 11 UN departments and agencies were conferring regularly on rule-of-law issues that arose in peacekeeping. The Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit was also considering establishing a rule-of-law trust fund to draw upon the resources and expertise of entities outside the UN system to support rule-of-law aspects of peace operations.

On the subject of post-conflict justice, the Under-Secretary-General said that there was much that the Council could do to facilitate UN efforts. The Organization should conduct case-by-case assessments of all mechanisms available. In addition, there should be broader assistance and support to national justice systems. When domestic justice capacities collapsed, the Organization should mandate interim measures, including international support for the establishment of temporary courts, policing capacities and detention facilities, and the provision of provisional codes for criminal law and procedure.

The Under-Secretary-General concluded that there was no single approach to justice and the rule of law, and any strategy adopted should be tailored to the needs and conditions of the host country and have as its primary objective the promotion of national ownership of justice systems and capacity-building.

#### Political and peace-building missions in 2003

During 2003, 15 UN political and peace-building missions and offices were in operation: 9 in Africa, 1 in the Americas, 4 in Asia and the Pacific and 1 in the Middle East.

In Africa, the United Nations Mission in Angola completed its mandated political tasks and ended on 15 February. The mandate and size of the United Nations Office in Burundi were revised to include assistance to the Joint Ceasefire Commission. The Security Council extended the mandates of the United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic and of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau until 31 December 2004. The activities of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia were continued for the 2004-2005 biennium. The mandate of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region was extended until 31 December 2004 and that of the United Nations

Peace-building Support Office in Liberia (UNOL) was expanded to include assistance to the Government in addressing capacity needs in the areas of human rights and the conduct of elections. Following further political developments in Liberia, the Secretary-General closed UNOL in September and transferred its functions to the new peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Mission in Liberia. In May, the Council authorized the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire and, in November, extended its mandate to 4 February 2004.

In the Americas, the Organization continued to support the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, whose mandate was extended until 31 December 2003 by General Assembly resolution 57/161 [YUN 2002, p. 247].

In Asia and the Pacific, the mandate of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB) (Papua New Guinea) was extended for a final period until 31 December 2003; on 23 December, the Council noted the Secretary-General's intention to establish for six months, as of 1 January 2004, a small United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville to replace UNPOB. The mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which was extended for a 12-month period ending 28 March 2004, was to fulfil the tasks and responsibilities, including those related to human rights, the rule of law and gender issues, entrusted to the United Nations in the 2001 Bonn Agreement [YUN 2001, p. 263]. The mandate of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building was extended to 1 June 2004. The United Nations Command continued to maintain the implementation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement [YUN 1953, p. 136] concerning the Korean peninsula.

During the year, the Council authorized visiting missions by its members to Afghanistan (31 October–8 November) (see p. 302), Central Africa (7–16 June) (see pp. 127 and 149) and West Africa (26 June–5 July) (see p. 163).

(For the financing of UN peace-building missions, see PART FIVE, Chapter II.)

### **Roster of 2003 political and peace-building offices**

#### **UNOB**

United Nations Office in Burundi  
*Established:* 25 October 1993.

*Mandate:* To assist the parties to the peace process with regard to the building of an internal political partnership within the context of the Arusha peace process; extended in 2001 to help in the consolidation of peace and security.

*Head of Mission:* Berhanu Dinka (Ethiopia).  
*Strength:* 30 international civilian staff (including 3 military advisers), 32 local civilian staff.

#### **MINUGUA**

United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala  
*Established:* 19 September 1994.

*Mandate:* To verify implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights.  
*Chief of Mission:* Tom Koenigs (Germany).  
*Strength:* 39 international civilian staff, 133 local civilian staff.

#### **UNPOS**

United Nations Political Office for Somalia  
*Established:* 15 April 1995.

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

*Head of Office:* Winston A. Tubman (Liberia).  
*Strength:* 5 international civilian staff, 6 local civilian staff.

#### **UNOL**

United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia

*Established:* 1 November 1997.

*Ended:* 1 October 2003.

*Mandate:* To act as focal point for peace-building and support reconciliation efforts and the establishment of democratic institutions; revised by the Security Council on 21 April to include support for the implementation of peace agreements, the holding of elections and development of a peace strategy.

#### **Great Lakes region**

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

*Established:* 19 December 1997.

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

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

*Strength:* 8 international civilian staff, 8 local civilian staff.

#### **UNPOB**

United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea)

*Established:* 15 June 1998.

*Ended:* 31 December 2003.

*Mandate:* To assist in the promotion of the political process under the Lincoln Agreement.

*Head of Office:* Noel Sinclair (Guyana).

*Strength:* 4 international civilian staff, 1 military adviser, 6 local civilian staff.

#### **UNOGBIS**

United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

*Established:* 3 March 1999.

*Mandate:* To assist in the transition from conflict management to post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction; extended in November 2003 in order to facilitate restoration and consolidation of institutional normality and create conditions conducive to peace and stability and the holding of elections.

*Head of Office:* David Stephen (United Kingdom).

*Strength:* 14 international civilian staff, 2 military advisers, 1 civilian police adviser, 13 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 United Nations contribution to the implementation of the peace agreements and to enhance UN assistance.

*Special Coordinator and Special Representative:* Terje Roed-Larsen (Norway).

*Strength:* 22 international civilian staff, 19 local civilian staff.

#### **BONUCA**

United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic

*Established:* 15 February 2000.

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

*Head of Office:* General Lamine Cissé (Senegal).

*Strength:* 24 international civilian staff, 5 military advisers, 6 civilian police, 2 UN Volunteers, 32 local civilian staff.

#### **UNTOP**

United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building

*Established:* 1 June 2000.

*Mandate:* To provide a political framework and leadership for post-conflict peace-building.

*Representative of the Secretary-General:* Vladimir Sotirov (Bulgaria).

*Strength:* 10 international civilian staff, including 1 civilian police adviser, 20 local civilian staff.

#### **UNOWA**

United Nations Office for West Africa

*Established:* March 2002.

*Mandate:* To ensure the strengthening of harmonization and coordination of UN system activities in an integrated regional perspective and development of a partnership with the Economic Community of West African States, other sub-regional organizations and international and national actors, including civil society.

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

*Strength:* 9 international civilian staff, 11 local civilian staff.

#### **UNAMA**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

*Established:* 28 March 2002.

*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:* Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria).

*Strength:* 206 international civilian staff, 702 local civilian staff, 8 military advisers, 3 civilian police.

#### **UNMA**

United Nations Mission in Angola

*Established:* 15 August 2002.

*Ended:* 15 February 2003.

#### **MINUCI**

United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire

*Established:* 13 May 2003.

*Mandate:* To facilitate implementation by the Ivorian parties of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.

*Head of Mission:* Albert Tévoedjré (Benin).

*Authorized strength:* 76 military liaison observers.

#### **UNAMI**

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

*Established:* 14 August 2003.

*Mandate:* To support the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his mandate under Security Council resolution 1483(2003).

*Head of Mission:* Ross Mountain (New Zealand).

*Authorized strength:* 40 international staff.

## Threats to international peace and security

### International terrorism

#### High-level meeting of the Security Council: combating terrorism

On 20 January [meeting 4688], the Security Council held a high-level meeting on combating terrorism.

The Secretary-General stated that the ministerial meeting showed the steady determination of the international community to address the scourge of terrorism and was a sign of the importance the world placed on dealing effectively with that global threat. However, the problem required sustained, long-term action to be addressed successfully. In that regard, the United Nations had to set effective international norms, issue a clear message on the unacceptability of violence targeting civilians and deny terrorists the opportunity to commit their appalling crimes. The Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) (see p. 66) would continue to have a key role in that area, as would the common efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Greater efforts were needed to ensure universality, verification and full implementation of the key treaties relating to those weapons, tighten national export controls over the items needed to produce them, criminalize the acquisition or use of such weapons by non-State groups and sustain broad, international cooperation by clearly articulating the work of various international, regional and subregional organizations in that effort. The United Nations also had to provide the legal and organizational framework within which the international campaign against terrorism could unfold.

However, questions were being asked about the damage caused by the war on terrorism to the presumption of innocence, human rights, the rule of law and the very fabric of democratic governance. The danger was that, in pursuit of security, crucial liberties were being sacrificed, thereby weakening common security and corroding democratic government from within. Some States were using the fight against terrorism to threaten or justify new military action on long-running disputes, while others combating various forms of unrest or insurgency were finding it tempting to abandon political negotiation for military action.

The Secretary-General called on the United Nations and its Members not to lose sight of the

broader international agenda in their fight against terrorism. While there was an urgent and compelling need to prevent acts of terror, there was a no less compelling need to pursue the goals enshrined in the Charter. To the extent that the Organization succeeded in combating poverty, injustice, suffering and war, it was also likely to help end the conditions that served as justification for those who would commit acts of terror.

The CTC Chairman briefed the Council on the Committee's work in fulfilment of resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61] (see p. 66).

The Council adopted a declaration aimed at reinforcing the international community's mobilization against terrorism (see below).

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 January [meeting 4688], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1456(2003)**. The draft [S/2003/60] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

#### *The Security Council*

*Decides* to adopt the attached declaration on the issue of combating terrorism.

#### Annex

#### *The Security Council,*

*Meeting* at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 20 January 2003, reaffirms that:

(a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security;

(b) Any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed and are to be unequivocally condemned, especially when they indiscriminately target or injure civilians;

(c) There is a serious and growing danger of terrorist access to and use of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, and therefore a need to strengthen controls on these materials;

(d) It has become easier, in an increasingly globalized world, for terrorists to exploit sophisticated technology, communications and resources for their criminal objectives;

(e) Measures to detect and stem the flow of finance and funds for terrorist purposes must be urgently strengthened;

(f) Terrorists must also be prevented from making use of other criminal activities such as transnational organized crime, illicit drugs and drug trafficking, money-laundering and illicit arms trafficking;

(g) Since terrorists and their supporters exploit instability and intolerance to justify their criminal acts, the Council is determined to counter this by contributing to the peaceful resolution of disputes and by working to create a climate of mutual tolerance and respect;

(h) Terrorism can only be defeated, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, by a sustained comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all

States and international and regional organizations, and by redoubled efforts at the national level.

\* \* \*

The Council therefore calls for the following steps to be taken:

1. All States must take urgent action to prevent and suppress all active and passive support to terrorism, and, in particular, comply fully with all relevant resolutions of the Council, in particular resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1390(2002) of 16 January 2002 and 1455(2003) of 17 January 2003;

2. The Council calls upon States:

(a) To become parties, as a matter of urgency, to all relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 9 December 1999, and to support all international initiatives taken with that aim, and to make full use of the sources of assistance and guidance which are now becoming available;

(b) To assist each other, to the maximum extent possible, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of acts of terrorism, wherever they occur;

(c) To cooperate closely to implement fully the sanctions against terrorists and their associates, in particular Al-Qa'idah and the Taliban and their associates, as reflected in resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1390(2002) and 1455(2003), to take urgent actions to deny them access to the financial resources they need to carry out their actions, and to cooperate fully with the Monitoring Group established pursuant to resolution 1363(2001);

3. States must bring to justice those who finance, plan, support or commit terrorist acts or provide safe havens, in accordance with international law, in particular on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute;

4. The Counter-Terrorism Committee must intensify its efforts to promote the implementation by Member States of all aspects of resolution 1373(2001), in particular by reviewing reports by States and facilitating international assistance and cooperation, and by continuing to operate in a transparent and effective manner, and in that regard the Council:

(a) Stresses the obligation of States to report to the Committee, according to the timetable set by the Committee, calls upon the 13 States that have not yet submitted a first report and on the 56 States that are late in submitting further reports to do so by 31 March, and requests the Committee to report regularly on progress;

(b) Calls upon States to respond promptly and fully to the requests for information, comments and questions of the Committee in full and on time, and instructs the Committee to inform the Council of progress, including any difficulties it encounters;

(c) Requests the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373(2001), to bear in mind all international best practices, codes and standards which are relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373(2001), and underlines its support for the approach of the Committee in constructing a dialogue with each State on further action required to implement fully resolution 1373(2001);

5. States should assist each other to improve their capacity to prevent and fight terrorism, and notes that such cooperation will help to facilitate the full and timely implementation of resolution 1373(2001), and invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to step up its efforts to facilitate the provision of technical and other assistance by developing targets and priorities for global action;

6. States 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;

7. International organizations should evaluate ways in which they can enhance the effectiveness of their action against terrorism, including by establishing dialogue and exchanges of information with each other and with other relevant international actors, and directs this appeal in particular to those technical agencies and organizations whose activities relate to the control of the use of or access to nuclear, chemical, biological and other deadly materials; in this context the importance of fully complying with existing legal obligations in the field of disarmament, arms limitation and non-proliferation and, where necessary, strengthening international instruments in this field should be underlined;

8. Regional and subregional organizations should work with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and other international organizations to facilitate sharing of best practice in the fight against terrorism, and to assist their members in fulfilling their obligation to combat terrorism;

9. Those participating in the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations on 7 March 2003 should use that opportunity to make urgent progress on the matters referred to in the present declaration which involve the work of such organizations;

\* \* \*

The Council also:

10. Emphasizes that continuing international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, to strengthen further the campaign against terrorism and to address unresolved regional conflicts and the full range of global issues, including development issues, will contribute to international cooperation and collaboration, which by themselves are necessary to sustain the broadest possible fight against terrorism;

11. Reaffirms its strong determination to intensify its fight against terrorism in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter, takes note of the contributions made during its meeting on 20 January 2003 with a view to enhancing the role of the United Nations in this regard, and invites Member States to make further contributions to this end;

12. Invites the Secretary-General to submit within 28 days a report summarizing any proposals made during its ministerial meeting and any commentary or response to these proposals by any member of the Council;

13. Encourages States Members of the United Nations to cooperate in resolving all outstanding issues with a view to the adoption, by consensus, of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism;

14. Decides to review actions taken towards the realization of the present declaration at further meetings of the Council.

#### *Follow-up to resolution 1456(2003)*

**Report of Secretary-General.** In a February report [S/2003/191 & Add.1], the Secretary-General, in response to resolution 1456(2003) (see p. 63), submitted a summary of proposals made by Council members during its 20 January ministerial meeting as reflected in the provisional verbatim record [S/PV.4688] and written replies from four Council members (Chile, France, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic). The proposals related to international instruments, international cooperation, the role of the international, regional and subregional organizations, assistance and CTC.

**CTC action.** In a 14 February letter [S/2003/198], the CTC Chairman submitted to the Security Council President a summary of the action in response to the Council's declaration contained in resolution 1456(2003).

**Security Council consideration.** The Security Council again discussed the question of threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts on 20 February [meeting 4710].

#### **2003 terrorist incidents**

##### *Colombia*

In an 8 February press statement [SG/SM/8599], the Secretary-General expressed his shock at the terrorist attack on a crowded social club in Bogotá, Colombia, on 7 February, and his sympathy for the victims and their families. He strongly condemned the bombing and all other terrorist attacks by any actor in the conflict.

The Security Council, in **resolution 1465 (2003)** (see p. 285) of 13 February, condemned the bomb attack and urged all States to work with and to support Colombia in finding and bringing the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors to justice.

##### *Iraq*

On 19 August, 15 UN staff members and seven others were killed, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and well over 100 were wounded in a bomb attack on UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

In a 20 August statement (**S/PRST/2003/13**) (see p. 347), the Security Council President condemned the terrorist attack and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Russian Federation, on 19 August [S/2003/822], and Mali, on 22 August [A/58/315-S/2003/845], on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network (Austria, Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand), condemned the 19 August terrorist attack and expressed their condolences to the families of the victims.

In **resolution 1511(2003)** of 16 October (see p. 348), the Council condemned the terrorist bombings of the Embassy of Jordan in Iraq on 7 August, of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August, of Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf on 29 August and of the Embassy of Turkey in Iraq on 14 October, the murder of a Spanish diplomat on 9 October and the assassination of Dr. Akila al-Hashimi, who died on 25 September, and emphasized that those responsible should be brought to justice.

##### *Turkey*

On 15 November, two bombs exploded simultaneously in Istanbul, Turkey, near the Neve Shalom and Beth Israel Synagogues. At least 20 people were reported to have been killed and more than 300 wounded, mostly worshippers attending weekly Sabbath services.

On 20 November, 27 persons died and 450 others were wounded as a result of explosions that took place in Istanbul in front of the HSBC Bank Directorate General and 10 minutes later in front of the United Kingdom Consulate. The Consul General was among those killed.

#### **SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 20 November [meeting 4867], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1516 (2003)**. The draft [S/2003/1106] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

*The Security Council,*

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions, in particular its resolution 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001,

*Reaffirming also* the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the bomb attacks in Istanbul, Turkey, on 15 and 20 November 2003 in which many lives were claimed and people injured, as well as other terrorist acts in various countries, and regards such acts, like any act of terrorism, as a threat to peace and security;

2. *Expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences* to the people and Governments of Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to the victims of the terrorist attacks and their families;

3. *Urges* all States, in accordance with their obligations under resolution 1373(2001), to cooperate in efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these terrorist attacks;

4. *Expresses its reinforced determination* to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

#### Measures to eliminate international terrorism

During 2003, the United Nations pursued action on several fronts to combat and eliminate international terrorism. The General Assembly adopted **resolution 58/48** (see p. 580) on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, **resolution 58/81** on measures to eliminate international terrorism (see p. 1339) and **resolution 58/136** on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (see p. 1149).

The Security Council met five times to consider the work of its Counter-Terrorism Committee and adopted a number of statements (see below).

**Communications.** In letters dated 12 May [A/58/78-S/2003/541] and 13 May [A/57/812-S/2003/544], respectively, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Cuba responded to the sections relevant to their countries in a 30 April report published by the Office of the Coordinator for Counter-terrorism of the United States Government.

On 10 September [S/2003/893], Georgia noted that United States President George W. Bush had, by an 8 August executive order, declared Shamil Basayev, who had assumed responsibility for various terrorist attacks in the Russian Federation, as dangerous for the United States and its citizens. Georgia joined the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States in requesting that the United Nations include Mr. Basayev in the list of dangerous terrorists.

On 11 September [S/2003/892], Italy, on behalf of the European Union (EU), in a statement to commemorate the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States [YUN 2001, p. 60], said that the EU had adopted a wide and significant set of measures and had participated in the activities of international forums aimed at preventing and suppressing terrorism. It had also promoted political dialogue to raise awareness of the need for

appropriate and effective domestic and international legislative measures.

On the same date [A/58/361-S/2003/877], and also in commemoration of the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States, the Russian Federation said that it had adopted and would continue to adopt a firm and uncompromising position in the fight against terrorism.

#### Counter-Terrorism Committee

In 2003, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established by Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], updated the consolidated directory of contact persons in each State, in a number of international/regional organizations and agencies, and in the UN Secretariat, who would provide information or assistance in connection with matters arising under resolution 1373(2001). The revisions were transmitted by the Committee Chairman to the Council President on 28 March [S/2002/1031/Rev.1], 22 July [S/2003/786] and 21 November [S/2003/1121].

The Chairman also submitted CTC's work programmes for the 90-day periods 1 January to 31 March [S/2003/72], 1 April to 30 June [S/2003/387], 1 July to 30 September [S/2003/710] (see p. 68) and 1 October to 31 December [S/2003/995]. The Council considered those reports at meetings held on 4 April, 6 May, 23 July and 16 October under the agenda item "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".

In an 8 January note [S/2003/30], the Council President reported that Council members had agreed to elect Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins (Angola), Adolfo Aguilar Zinser (Mexico) and Sergey Lavrov (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairmen of CTC with immediate effect. Inocencio Arias (Spain) was elected as the next CTC Chairman. He would take over that position from Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom) following the review of CTC's structure and activities, which would take place no later than 4 April.

**Security Council consideration (January).** The CTC Chairman, reporting to the Council on the Committee's work on 20 January [meeting 4688], said that, for all the progress made by CTC in monitoring and encouraging implementation of resolution 1373(2001), achieving real improvements in practice on the ground everywhere was taking too long. The over 280 reports received from 178 Member States in 15 months showed that the vast majority of Governments had begun to respond to the challenge to prevent and suppress terrorism; parliaments had begun to consider or to adopt new laws and Governments had reviewed the strength of their institutions to fight terrorism, and in some cases had already

strengthened them. However, much more remained to be done to raise the bar against terrorism everywhere.

The Chairman suggested that States should begin to work towards the shared goal to further global implementation of resolution 1373(2001). Thirteen States had not yet submitted a report to CTC, 2 had made no contact with it and 11 were working on reports, 3 with outside assistance set up by CTC. The final date for submission of reports was 31 March, after which any non-reporting State would be held to be non-compliant with resolution 1373(2001). States needed to improve their implementation of that resolution, including by becoming party to the 12 conventions and protocols on terrorism [YUN 2001, p. 69].

CTC had not as yet initiated action on paragraph 4 of resolution 1373(2001) on the potential links between terrorism and other forms of international organized crime. However, the structures that the Committee was helping to put in place for counter-terrorism might have a wider value and effectiveness in strengthening the capacity of Governments against international crime of all kinds. There might be advantages also for the Council's work against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Council took action on the report of the CTC Chairman in resolution 1456(2003) (see p. 63).

On 31 March [S/2003/404 & Corr.1], the CTC Chairman, recalling that the Council, in resolution 1456(2003), had requested Member States to submit all outstanding first and subsequent reports by 31 March, stated that 351 reports had been received from 188 Member States and five others by that date. The annex to the Chairman's letter indicated that three States had failed to submit a report by the 31 March deadline and had not availed themselves of the Committee's offer of advice and guidance. A total of 41 States had failed to meet the 31 March deadline for the submission of all outstanding second reports and 32 of them were more than three months late. The Chairman suggested that the issue of States' obligation to report to the Committee be considered soon by the Council.

**Security Council consideration (April).** Reporting to the Council on 4 April [meeting 4734], the CTC Chairman, referring to the Committee's seventh 90-day work programme [S/2003/387], said that the Council should decide what further action to take with respect to the three States that had still not submitted even a preliminary report and the 51 States that had not met the deadline set by CTC for subsequent reports.

For those States that were furthest ahead in their reporting, CTC was moving from examining

legislation to establishing the existence of adequate and effectively functioning executive machinery. As it moved into stages B and C—the existence and utilization of government machinery to prevent terrorist activities and bring terrorists to justice—CTC would need to deepen its understanding of what was required of States, and communicate that to Governments. States had to be proactive in their response, setting their own benchmarks or using their regional organizations to do so.

A meeting hosted by the CTC Chairman on 6 March with representatives of some 60 international, regional and subregional organizations with counter-terrorism programmes was important for establishing a global structure. Participants recognized that every organization had its own role and mandate, but agreed that, by working together, they could shorten the journey and add more value to the fight against terrorism. In practical terms, creating a global network meant a better flow of information. The CTC web site would be expanded to host the best information, in a user-friendly format. CTC would further develop the list of contact points, making contacts as simple as possible. The CTC Chairman encouraged all States and international, regional and subregional organizations to use those contact points and the information about what others were doing to develop collective action.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 4 April [meeting 4734], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2003/3** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the briefing by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the work of the Committee.

The Council recalls the statement by its President of 8 October 2002 (S/PRST/2002/26), which recorded the intention of the Council to review the structure and activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee no later than 4 April 2003. The Council thanks Sir Jeremy Greenstock, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for his chairmanship of the Committee during the first 18 months of its work, and confirms the appointment of Mr. Arias, of Spain, as the new Chairman. The Council also confirms the continuation in office of Mr. Gaspar Martins, of Angola, Mr. Aguilar Zinser, of Mexico, and Mr. Lavrov, of the Russian Federation, as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee.

The Council invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to pursue its agenda as set out in the work programme for the Committee for the seventh 90-day period.

The Council notes that 3 States have not yet submitted a report to the Counter-Terrorism Commit-

tee, and that 51 Member States are late in submitting a further report, in contravention of the requirements set out in resolution 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001. It calls upon them urgently to do so, in order to maintain the universality of response which resolution 1373(2001) requires.

The Council invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to continue reporting on its activities at regular intervals and expresses its intention to review the structure and activities of the Committee no later than 4 October 2003.”

**Security Council consideration (May).** The Prime Minister of Spain, José María Aznar, whose country took over the chairmanship of CTC in April, told the Security Council on 6 May [meeting 4752] that the strategic challenge posed by terrorism required more ambitious collective responses. The Council should strengthen CTC and enhance the means available to it and its capacity for supervision, facilitating assistance to countries, and coordination with other international and regional organizations. Cooperation with disarmament agencies, especially those responsible for weapons of mass destruction, should be a priority. To increase CTC’s operational capability and visibility, the Council should consider empowering it to draw up a general list of terrorist organizations, similar to the list kept by the Committee established by resolution 1267(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 265] on Al-Qaida and the Taliban (see p. 312). It was essential to strengthen mechanisms for curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the availability of such weapons to terrorist groups. Existing measures to cut off financing to and dismantle financial networks that provided resources to terrorists should also be improved.

Zero tolerance for terrorism should come first in any code of conduct promulgated by the international community, and counter-terrorism assistance should be regularly incorporated into international, bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Group of Eight major industrialized nations (G-8) should play a particularly relevant role in that area. The Council should elaborate procedures to prevent terrorist groups from using the UN system as a platform for conveying their violent message to the world, and set up an institutional mechanism within the UN framework as a forum for terrorism victims to speak out. It should also address the social factors that terrorist organizations used as excuses, and foster dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures.

**Security Council consideration (July).** On 23 July [meeting 4792], the CTC Chairman presented to the Security Council the Committee’s 90-day

work programme for the period 1 July to 30 September [S/2003/710]. He described the scope of CTC’s activity over the preceding year, noting that, as at 30 June 2003, 37 States were parties to the 12 conventions and protocols related to the fight against terrorism [YUN 2001, p. 69], compared to only two in September 2001, and that 385 reports had been received from Member States. However, in the short term, CTC faced two important challenges. The first related to technical assistance to those States that demonstrated genuine political will to fight terrorism but had difficulties implementing resolution 1373(2001) [ibid., p. 61]. The Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance and the Matrix of Assistance were no longer adequate. CTC needed to adopt a more proactive role and ensure that the needs of those States were met, while promoting and coordinating available international assistance towards those priorities it was currently identifying. The second challenge was to tighten the links between CTC and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. The plan of action adopted at the 6 March meeting with those organizations (see p. 67) had been implemented and had produced good results. The Chairman drew attention to the contacts between CTC and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the World Customs Organization, Interpol and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which highlighted the danger represented by terrorist groups having access to weapons of mass destruction or to radioactive, chemical or biological material. The latter threat had not been given sufficient attention and CTC intended to remain seized of the matter.

**Security Council consideration (October).** The Security Council President, in a 3 October note [S/2003/935], indicated that, in the light of the Council’s decision in statement S/PRST/2003/3 (see p. 67) to review CTC structure and activities by 4 October, Council members had agreed that the review would take place during October. CTC Chairman Inocencio Arias would report to the Council on CTC activities.

On 16 October [meeting 4845], the CTC Chairman informed the Council that CTC’s rate of review of reports submitted by States had slowed down somewhat compared to previous periods because of the more complex phase of the work. As States moved from stage A (verifying that adequate anti-terrorist legislation was in place) to stage B (actual implementation of those measures), the Committee had taken more time to review reports and draft letters, and had to find a balance between the amount of attention given to States at both stages. For that purpose,

CTC had prepared a working paper on the criteria for the drafting of letters and the need to give attention to all States in line with the principle of equal treatment, while providing flexibility for proper follow-up of States' efforts to implement resolution 1373(2001). By 30 September, CTC had received a total of 419 reports from Member States and others, including 196 initial reports, 102 second reports and 71 third reports. Although all Member States had submitted initial reports, 48 States were late in responding. The Committee agreed that the Chairman would present to the Council, no later than 31 October, a list of States that had not submitted their reports on time at that date.

CTC's work had included, at one of its meetings, consideration of the issue of States becoming parties to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism. Its team of experts had presented a report on the status of State participation and of the positive impact of resolution 1373(2001) and of the work of the Committee itself. CTC continued to apply to its working methods the criteria of coordination, transparency and equality of treatment to each case. It was working to ensure a more active approach for collaborating with those States facing difficulties in implementing resolution 1373(2001). With regard to transparency, the Committee's web page had been completely redesigned to provide for easier and quicker consultation. The English version was fully operative and the French and Spanish would be ready shortly. The web page would also be available soon in Arabic, Chinese and Russian. CTC had strengthened ties with international, regional and subregional organizations, and those working more directly in the fight against terrorism. On 7 October, a second meeting was held with those organizations in Washington, D.C., at which a great deal of information was exchanged. The next meeting was scheduled for March 2004 in Vienna. The Committee would continue, as its main priorities, to follow closely the flow of information exchanges with States, provide technical assistance and ensure adequate coordination of counter-terrorism efforts by international and regional organizations in combating terrorism.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 October [meeting 4845], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2003/17** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) con-

cerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) on the work of the Committee.

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

The Council recalls the statement by its President of 4 April 2003, which recorded the intention of the Council to review the structure and activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee no later than 4 October 2003. The Council confirms the continuation of the current arrangements for the Bureau of the Committee for a further six months. It invites the Committee to pursue its agenda as set out in the work programme for the Committee for the ninth 90-day period, focusing on practical measures designed to increase the means available to States to combat terrorism, helping States to identify the problems faced by States in implementing resolution 1373(2001) of 20 September 2001, attempting to find solutions to them, working to increase the number of States which are parties to the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and deepening its dialogue with international, regional and subregional organizations active in the areas covered by the resolution. The Council invites these organizations to continue to find ways of improving their collective action against terrorism and, where appropriate, to work with donor States to establish suitable programmes.

The Council notes that 48 Member States are late in submitting their reports as called for in resolution 1373(2001). It calls upon them urgently to do so, in order to maintain the universality of response which resolution 1373(2001) requires. By 31 October 2003 the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee will forward to the Council the list of the States which, at that date, are late in submitting their reports.

The Council invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to continue reporting on its activities at regular intervals and expresses its intention to review the structure and activities of the Committee no later than 4 April 2004.

**Report of CTC Chairman.** On 31 October [S/2003/1056 & Corr.2], the CTC Chairman, in accordance with the Committee's ninth 90-day work programme [S/2003/995] and presidential statement S/PRST/2003/17 (see above), presented to the Security Council the list of the 56 States that had failed to meet the 31 October deadline for the submission of outstanding second and third reports on measures they had adopted to implement resolution 1373(2001).

**Reports of States.** Between January and December, the CTC Chairman transmitted to the Council President reports submitted by Member States on action they had taken or planned to take to implement resolution 1373(2001) and letters from the Committee requesting follow-up information: [S/2003/15-26, S/2003/127-129, S/2003/145-147,

S/2003/179-180, S/2003/258-266, S/2003/267 & Add.1, S/2003/268-280, S/2003/307-308, S/2003/346, S/2003/353-356, S/2003/361, S/2003/383-386, S/2003/388, S/2003/402-403, S/2003/420, S/2003/424-429, S/2003/433-448, S/2003/451 & Corr.1, S/2003/452-464, S/2003/471, S/2003/473-497, S/2003/513, S/2003/521, S/2003/526, S/2003/531-537, S/2003/552, S/2003/568, S/2003/583-598, S/2003/622-628, S/2003/631-634, S/2003/646-651, S/2003/670-671, S/2003/676, S/2003/700-702, S/2003/710, S/2003/719-725, S/2003/729, S/2003/734-748, S/2003/773-776, S/2003/787-790, S/2003/816, S/2003/833, S/2003/837-842, S/2003/852, S/2003/854, S/2003/856, S/2003/860-862, S/2003/868-871, S/2003/894, S/2003/896-897, S/2003/903-906, S/2003/908-912, S/2003/915, S/2003/953-965, S/2003/964-968, S/2003/978-979, S/2003/997-1012, S/2003/1014-1015, S/2003/1018, S/2003/1036-1044, S/2003/1050, S/2003/1057-1065, S/2003/1084-1086, S/2003/1103-1104, S/2003/1117-1119, S/2003/1122-1133, S/2003/1140, S/2003/1150-1156].

#### CTC conference and support services

The Secretary-General, in his second performance report on the 2002-2003 programme budget [A/58/558], indicated that total estimated CTC conference-servicing requirements for 2002-2003 would amount to \$12,425,900, and related support services requirements would total \$587,700. Taking into account the amounts already appropriated for the biennium in General Assembly resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375] (\$6,531,900 for conference servicing and \$364,200 for support services), an additional appropriation of \$5,094,100 was required to cover the balance of the requirements for the biennium.

The appropriation was approved in Assembly resolution 58/267 A of 23 December (see p. 1397).

The Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly in December revised estimates under sections of the proposed 2004-2005 programme budget relating to conference and support services for CTC. Because of the extraordinary nature of CTC activities, requirements for those services were not initially included in the 2004-2005 proposed programme budget (see p. 1399). Following the pattern of requests made in the first and second years of the 2002-2003 biennium [YUN 2002, p. 56], resources amounting to \$4,843,750 were being requested for 2004 only.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in a 3 December report [A/58/7/Add.17] on the Secretary-General's proposals, recommended that the Assembly authorize him to enter into commitments in the amount of \$4,193,000 and that any additional appropriations required be dealt with in the context of the first performance report for the 2004-2005 biennium, which should include detailed information on expenditures for 2004.

The Assembly, in resolution 58/272 (see p. 1417), appropriated \$8,193,000 to support CTC's meeting requirements for the 2004-2005 biennium.

#### Action by Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twelfth session (13-22 May) [E/2003/30], recommended to the Economic and Social Council for approval a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly entitled "Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention". That resolution was approved by the Council as resolution 2003/22 and adopted by the Assembly as resolution 58/136 (see p. 1149).

#### IAEA action

The General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), at its forty-seventh session (Vienna, 15-19 September) (see p. 1505), adopted resolution GC(47)/RES/8 relating to progress on measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism. It called on member States to continue providing political, financial and technical support to improve nuclear and radiological security and prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism, and to support the Nuclear Security Fund.

#### Action by other organizations to combat terrorism

On 22 January 2003 [S/2003/85], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council President a 6 December 2002 letter from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in which he communicated the decisions taken at the Prague Summit of Heads of State and Government (21-22 November 2002) relevant to the fight against terrorism. Those decisions included the creation of a NATO Response Force, approval of the Prague Capabilities Commitment to improve and develop new military capabilities for modern warfare in a high-threat environment, and endorsement of a military concept for defence against terrorism.

On 6 June [A/57/826-S/2003/637], France transmitted to the Secretary-General the statement adopted by the G-8 heads of State and Government at their 2003 Summit (Evian, 29 May-3 June) on securing radioactive sources as part of the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Annexed to the statement was

the G-8 Action Plan aimed at preventing acts of radiological terrorism.

On 20 November [A/58/608], Lithuania transmitted to the Secretary-General a summary of the seminar, organized in cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (Vilnius, 6-7 November), on the theme "Ratification and implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments in the Baltic States".

On 3 December [A/58/619], Tajikistan transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of a 27 November statement by the States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan) on their efforts to build a counter-terrorism capacity.

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## Peacekeeping operations

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In 2003, the United Nations continued to manage its peacekeeping operations through implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi report) [YUN 2000, p. 83] and those of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, whose mandate was to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. The Special Committee held a general debate on 3 and 4 March, during which it approved a number of recommendations for submission to the General Assembly. It also considered other general issues related to peacekeeping operations and made recommendations for improving their effectiveness.

### General aspects of UN peacekeeping

#### Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund

The Secretary-General, on 21 May [A/57/816], submitted to the General Assembly the report requested by the Assembly President on the disposition of the financial award of approximately \$1 million of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize [YUN 2001, p. 46] to the Secretary-General and the United Nations. He referred to his earlier decision to establish the United Nations Peace Prize Memorial Fund for the receipt and administration of the proceeds of the Nobel Peace Prize and to donate his share of that award to the Fund, which would provide financial assistance for the education of children of United Nations civilian personnel killed in the line of duty in the service of peace. It would function as a special account under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the

United Nations, and could also receive and administer further contributions.

The Secretary-General believed that it would be appropriate to use the entire award for those who had made the greatest sacrifice by giving their lives for the cause of peace, and was therefore seeking the Assembly's concurrence regarding the disposition of the United Nations portion of the Prize.

By **decision 57/586** of 29 May, the Assembly decided that the United Nations portion of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize should be donated to the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund.

#### Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

By a 7 January note [S/2003/12], the Security Council President reported that Council members had agreed that Cristián Maquieira (Chile) would serve as Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations until 31 December, replacing Wegger Christian Srommen (Norway).

On 18 December [S/2003/1184], the Council President stated that Council members had agreed that the Working Group would continue its work until 31 December 2004.

#### Standby arrangements and rapid deployment

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2003 session (3-4 March) [A/57/767], reiterated the validity of the goal of enhancing UN capacity to deploy peacekeeping operations within 30 days, or 90 days in the case of a complex operation, after the adoption of a mandate, and its belief that, to meet those time frames, the Secretariat should have the capacity to act in a timely manner on the three interdependent aspects of personnel, materiel readiness and funding.

Regarding personnel, the Special Committee encouraged the Secretariat to focus on improving predeployment training and preparations of UN on-call mechanisms, and better cooperation among field units of troop-contributing countries. It welcomed the progress made towards making operational the on-call lists and rosters and the Rapid Deployment Team, and encouraged further training of relevant personnel. In that regard, it noted the upcoming On-Call List Training Course (Hungary, 13-22 May) and the Command Post Exercise (Argentina, June), and asked the Secretariat to share the outcome of those exercises with Member States. The Committee encouraged DPKO to investigate the possibility of a short-term assignment of some of its military officers with the civilian Rapid Deploy-

ment Teams and to assist the core planning team deployed in the field during the first phase of a mission. It welcomed the introduction of the civilian police on-call roster, the model police headquarters and corresponding job descriptions as important steps towards preparing for the rapid deployment of civilian police.

In the area of materiel readiness, the Special Committee supported the continuing development of the strategic deployment stocks at the UN Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy, and the establishment of management mechanisms, policies and procedures to ensure their effective use. Recognizing that many troop-contributing countries faced logistical support problems, the Committee recommended that the United Nations continue to assist countries to overcome shortfalls in contingent-owned equipment or self-sustainability difficulties. The Secretariat should submit the results of its ongoing consideration of ways to overcome equipment shortfalls faced by troop-contributing countries.

In relation to funding, the Special Committee reiterated its request that the Secretariat report before its next session on the difficulties troop-contributing countries faced in complying with rapid deployment requirements and recommend ways of overcoming those difficulties, including the financial aspects. To that end, the Committee requested the creation of a working group to consider the issue, including ways to assure timely reimbursement in the rapid deployment phase.

Concerning strategic lift, the Special Committee welcomed efforts to clarify capabilities regarding specialized enabling resources and strategic lift capabilities, and recommended that DPKO provide Member States with detailed requirements regarding enabling resources. It supported the contracting of private companies to provide the required capabilities. It encouraged the Secretariat to continue to secure firm pledges for strategic lift, and urged those with the means to do so to make such pledges to the United Nations Standby Arrangements System.

**Communication.** The Secretary-General, in a 4 March letter to the Security Council President [S/2003/284], sought the Council's approval to discontinue the periodic reporting on the progress of the arrangements for standby units and resources, as requested by the Council in statement S/PRST/1994/22 [YUN 1994, p. 118], and to consolidate the reporting on those arrangements in the annual report to the Special Committee. Troop-contributing countries would continue to receive an annual oral briefing on the subject.

On 7 March [S/2003/285], the Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal.

#### *Strategic deployment stocks*

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/292 [YUN 2002, p. 64], the Secretary-General submitted a 12 March report on the status of the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks [A/57/751]. He stated that the DPKO Office of Mission Support had developed a detailed project plan for the phased establishment of those critical stocks at UNLB. The plan, which would enable the deployment of a traditional mission headquarters and of traditional and complex missions, took into account the concurrent development of the human resources capacity and the physical infrastructure necessary to receive, inspect and store strategic deployment stocks assets. A phased requisitioning and delivery plan was also developed, based on the use of systems contracts as the procurement strategy to ensure continuity, uniformity and ease of replenishment. Italy, as part of its voluntary contributions in kind to the United Nations, was constructing three warehouses at UNLB. The Office of Mission Support had undertaken a detailed analysis of the property management needs, including the development of a comprehensive inventory management system. In January, DPKO conducted a pilot exercise in rapid deployment at UNLB.

The current strategic deployment stocks holdings at UNLB exceeded \$32.5 million in value, including equipment transferred from DPKO's reserve and surplus stocks from peacekeeping operations. As at 20 February, out of the total budget of \$141,546,000 approved by the Assembly in resolution 56/292 to meet the requirements of the strategic deployment stocks, expenditures and pre-encumbrances amounted to \$115,783,000, including general temporary assistance. The Secretary-General therefore proposed that the validity period in respect of those approved resources be extended to 30 June 2004. The Secretary-General also reported on efforts to improve the procedures for liquidating closed missions.

In an April report [A/57/772/Add.9], ACABQ stated that it had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the validity period of resolution 56/292 and recommended that he consolidate the report on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks with that on UNLB budget and performance.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/315** without vote [agenda item 126].

### **Status of the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 56/292 of 27 June 2002 concerning the establishment of the strategic deployment stocks,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
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, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Decides* to extend the validity period in respect of the resources approved in its resolution 56/292 to 30 June 2004;
4. *Recalls* paragraph 2 of its resolution 56/292, and requests the Secretary-General to include the procurement statistics in future reports;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to submit to it separate reports on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks and on the budget and performance of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, at its fifty-eighth session.

### **Consultations with troop contributors**

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/57/767] reiterated the need for substantive and meaningful consultations and cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries (TCCs). It believed that the meetings and mechanisms established by Council resolution 1353 (2001) [YUN 2001, p. 80] and the Council President's January 2002 note [YUN 2002, p. 65] had improved the consultation process. It recommended that consultative meetings should be more transparent and that all potentially significant actors should be informed beforehand of those meetings.

The Special Committee welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment that cooperation between the Secretariat and TCCs would remain a high priority for the Secretariat in 2003. It urged the Secretariat to consult with TCCs in a timely manner when planning any change in the tasks, rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure affecting personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, or a drawdown of troops in any peacekeeping operation. Member States concerned should be fully consulted and provided with a timely account of UN investigations or inquiries into incidents involving possible responsibility on the part of any of their personnel. They should also be involved in the investigation of cases where the loss of or damage to property or

death or personal injury was alleged to have been caused by gross negligence or wilful misconduct of nationally contributed personnel or equipment, and therefore a TCC could be seen as liable for such claims. The outcome of the investigation should be made available to the TCC to enable its national authorities to consider questions of legal liability.

The Special Committee recommended that the Secretariat develop additional modalities for information-sharing with TCCs and other personnel contributors. In that regard, it commended DPKO for conducting the first course for TCCs, New York-based military advisers, civilian police advisers and/or officials responsible for peacekeeping issues at permanent missions, and encouraged DPKO to hold the course annually. DPKO was encouraged to make more use of issue-specific workshops and briefings to pursue a focused cooperation with Member States on questions related to peacekeeping, and to consult with them in developing and updating peacekeeping-related guidelines and policy documents. It should provide access for Member States to a comprehensive and up-to-date list of existing and anticipated peacekeeping-related policy papers, guidelines, manuals, standard operating procedures and training materials and to any peacekeeping-related documents, including through the Internet. It recommended that TCCs and DPKO should improve communication relating to pre-deployment visits.

### **Safety and security**

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/57/767], expressing grave concern about the continuing attacks and other acts of violence against UN and associated personnel, stressed that host countries and others should take steps to ensure their safety and security, including a legal regime with no impunity for the perpetrators of such attacks. The Committee urged those States that had not done so to consider becoming parties to the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, adopted by General Assembly resolution 49/59 [YUN 1994, p. 1289] (see p. 1340). It emphasized that status-of-forces and status-of-mission agreements should include specific measures to enhance personnel safety and security, based on the Convention.

The Special Committee stressed the need to expedite consultations to delineate clear lines of responsibility and ensure close coordination between the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and DPKO, and requested that the outcome of those consultations be conveyed to Member States. It noted the need to further im-

prove information collection, analysis and dissemination at Headquarters and in the field, and recommended that DPKO's strengthened capacity, especially that of the Situation Centre, be utilized for that purpose.

As the majority of recent incidents involving the death or injury of UN peacekeeping personnel resulted from accidents, the Special Committee welcomed the establishment of a safety council to promote safety awareness, and encouraged Member States to share with the Secretariat relevant information on national safety programmes. The Secretariat should report on its work to formalize a policy on protection from nuclear, biological and chemical threats in the field. The Special Committee noted the progress achieved by DPKO in ensuring the safety of air operations in peacekeeping operations, in particular through the implementation of international aviation standards, rigorous contractual procedures and continuous monitoring of the Department's aviation operations.

The Secretariat should ensure that expeditious, comprehensive, impartial and transparent investigations or inquiries were conducted into incidents leading to loss of life or serious injury among UN peacekeeping personnel and provide TCCs with the results at the earliest stage possible. Early implementation of standard operating procedures to avoid repetition of such accidents should be encouraged, and TCCs of the concerned mission should be provided with information on the actual measures implemented.

### **Women and peacekeeping**

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 56/293 [YUN 2002, p. 77], the Secretary-General submitted a February report on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities [A/57/731]. The Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to develop a coherent policy on gender mainstreaming in all of the Organization's peacekeeping activities; the request was related to his proposal for additional resources under the Support Account for the establishment of a senior gender adviser post within DPKO.

The Secretary-General said that peacekeeping missions should identify and address gender-specific problems, such as sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls and prostitution (often combined with trafficking). DPKO's plan of action for gender mainstreaming would build gender perspectives into the work of the different components of peacekeeping operations and determine the most effective means of addressing gender perspectives in the day-to-day work of DPKO both at Headquarters and in the

field. Attention to gender perspectives had to be included in all initial assessments and mission statements and plans, so that the needs and priorities of women and men were addressed in the policy frameworks, strategies and programming processes. The development of policies and procedures, codes of conduct, manuals and guidelines had to give adequate consideration to gender perspectives.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General said that work carried out so far on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping had been financed through voluntary contributions. To ensure that it was systematically and effectively addressed, both at Headquarters and in the field, a full-time, dedicated gender advisory capacity was necessary at Headquarters in the form of a senior gender adviser located in the DPKO Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, where mainstreaming would be part of the decision-making processes of all peacekeeping activities.

**Special Committee consideration.** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/57/767], while commending Secretariat efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in DPKO activities, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113] and General Assembly resolution 55/71 [ibid., p. 1107], encouraged the Secretariat to pursue that policy further, including implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's 2002 report on women, peace and security [YUN 2002, p. 67].

The Special Committee noted that further action was required to systematically integrate a gender perspective in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and in adequately addressing the specific needs of women in conflict situations. It reiterated its support for the creation of a focal point within DPKO's Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit to support the work of gender offices in field missions and help to mainstream gender issues in all aspects of the Department's work. The Special Committee encouraged Member States to provide the names of qualified candidates, especially women candidates, to serve in high-level positions in peacekeeping activities.

**Security Council consideration.** On 29 October [meeting 4852], the Security Council considered the issue of women and peace and security. Briefing the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, described steps taken by DPKO to implement Council resolution 1325(2000), especially in the context of multidimensional peacekeeping operations. DPKO's efforts were focused on five main areas highlighted in the resolution: increasing the number of women in peace-

keeping operations; integrating a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations; training in gender awareness and HIV/AIDS issues (see below); strengthening discipline for peacekeeping personnel; and combating trafficking in human beings.

On the issue of gender balance among peacekeeping personnel, DPKO had started, on a pilot basis, to encourage more women applicants by targeting professional women's associations with vacancy announcements. Although women represented one third of Professional staff in the current 15 peacekeeping missions, DPKO intended to be more effective in identifying suitable women candidates for senior positions and in recruiting Professional-level women for missions.

As to gender mainstreaming, a number of practical field manuals were being produced to help demystify the issue, and a gender resource package, a field manual on gender issues for military commanders and one on gender issues in mine action were being developed. The temporary Gender Adviser, based at DPKO headquarters, had already begun to assist in more effectively coordinating efforts on gender issues, in facilitating cross-regional learning, and in identifying some of the main gaps and a comprehensive strategy to move forward. A network of gender focal points would also be established to assist in mainstreaming efforts. The Under-Secretary-General said that he intended to ensure that all future, multidimensional peacekeeping operations included strong gender expertise, in the form of a gender affairs unit that had access to senior-level decision-making in all areas of the mission's work.

As to disciplinary issues, DPKO, following a thorough review of existing policies and procedures, provided all missions in July with an updated set of disciplinary directives covering sexual abuse and exploitation and other types of serious misconduct. Each mission had an active strategy to prevent and respond to those problems and would appoint a senior focal point to receive complaints of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel.

On the issue of trafficking women, DPKO was undertaking a lessons-learned study on anti-trafficking programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Kosovo province of Yugoslavia, which would help to identify best practices and some lessons learned in tackling the problem.

The Senior Gender Adviser of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo also briefed the Council.

### **Peacekeeping and HIV/AIDS**

During the Security Council's consideration on 17 November of HIV/AIDS and international peacekeeping [meeting 4859], at which it was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (see p. 1247), Dr. Peter Piot, the Under-Secretary-General said that, since his last report on the subject [YUN 2001, p. 77], the number of people infected had grown to approximately 42 million. DPKO and UNAIDS were working together on HIV/AIDS and peacekeeping to reduce the risk of peacekeepers contracting or transmitting HIV while on mission. DPKO currently had HIV/AIDS policy advisers, supported by United Nations Volunteers, in four major peacekeeping operations and intended to deploy them in all major peacekeeping missions. HIV/AIDS focal points were established in six missions and others were being identified in the remaining operations. A primary element of DPKO's training strategy was to update and improve training materials. The three publications "Protect yourself, and those you care about, against HIV/AIDS", "HIV prevention and behaviour change in international military populations" and "Policy guidelines on HIV/AIDS prevention and control for United Nations military planners and commanders" were being reviewed and simplified to make them accessible to the broadest possible audience. DPKO had also developed a pre-deployment training module on HIV/AIDS and, with UNAIDS, was distributing HIV/AIDS awareness cards to peacekeepers covering the basic facts about the disease and codes of conduct. Currently available in 10 languages, the goal was for the cards to become a standard feature of a peacekeeper's uniform. Mission training cells for military personnel in eight peacekeeping operations were working closely with the HIV/AIDS policy advisers and focal points to ensure that HIV awareness was included in induction programmes. Similar induction training was conducted for civilian police personnel.

DPKO efforts did not stop at HIV/AIDS awareness and training. To counter behaviour that increased the risk of contracting or transmitting HIV, the Department took a zero tolerance stance regarding sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeeping personnel. Updated disciplinary directives had been sent to missions, and reporting and investigation mechanisms were being strengthened. DPKO was introducing voluntary confidential counselling and testing capabilities into missions. It had also concluded a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Population Fund for the provision of reproduc-

tive health items to both staff and uniformed personnel in all missions. To measure the impact of its efforts, DPKO was carrying out more systematic mission assessments and was working with UNAIDS to set up monitoring and evaluation systems.

The UNAIDS Executive Director said that UNAIDS had addressed AIDS and security in three ways: it had taken action in conjunction with DPKO in implementing aspects of Council resolution 1308(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 82] relating to peacekeeping forces; it was spearheading a wider response to AIDS among uniformed services; and it was expanding the response to AIDS as a pre-eminent humanitarian and security challenge. UNAIDS had established an expert panel on HIV testing in UN peacekeeping operations, whose report had informed the formulation of DPKO policy, and was establishing a comprehensive information base for targeting and evaluating HIV activities among peacekeepers.

Despite the progress, major challenges remained, such as a lack of reliable data on the spread of HIV among peacekeepers, the need to back up AIDS responses among peacekeepers by concerted leadership and the challenge of sustainability as peacekeepers were rotated through their missions in relatively short time frames, making it imperative that mission responses were reinforced in the ongoing programmes for uniformed services. UNAIDS was currently working with armed forces to ensure that HIV awareness and prevention took place prior to deployment and was reinforced at demobilization.

The United Kingdom proposed that the Council, on the basis of a progress report by the Secretary-General, hold a further discussion on HIV/AIDS in 2004 to consider strengthening the Council's response to resolution 1308(2000); draw on the experience of UNAIDS, DPKO, civil society groups and others to establish clearly the links between peace, security and HIV/AIDS, with suggestions for action; and ask the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment of both aspects for consideration by the Council in 2005.

The United States told the meeting that, as part of the international partnership against HIV/AIDS in Africa, its Department of Defense had been working with African armed forces to help create policies to deal with HIV/AIDS in a military setting by developing education programmes to reduce the spread of the disease among their personnel. The United States also underwrote the preparation and printing of a UN training booklet on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to be used by peacekeeping forces.

### **Peacekeeping and the international legal system**

On 12 June [meeting 4772], at the request of Canada, Jordan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Switzerland [S/2003/620], and of Greece, on behalf of the EU [S/2003/639], the Security Council held a public meeting to consider a draft resolution (see p. 77), which sought to renew the request contained in Council resolution 1422(2002) [YUN 2002, p. 70]. By the draft, the Council would again request the International Criminal Court (ICC), consistent with article 16 of the Rome Statute establishing the Court [YUN 1998, p. 1209], to delay for a 12-month period, starting 1 July 2003, investigation or prosecution of any case involving current or former officials from a State not party to the Rome Statute and would express the intention to renew that request each 1 July for as long as might be necessary.

Addressing the Council, the Secretary-General said that article 16 of the Statute was not intended to cover such a sweeping request, but only a specific one relating to a particular situation. He did not believe that request was necessary since it dealt with a hypothetical and highly improbable case. Additionally, people serving in UN peacekeeping missions remained under the jurisdiction of their home States, and any of them accused of committing a crime during a mission were immediately repatriated and dealt with by their country's national courts. Also, no case was admissible in ICC if it had already been or was being investigated or prosecuted by a State that had jurisdiction over it, unless that State was unwilling or unable genuinely to investigate or prosecute. He assumed that the home State of a peacekeeper accused of the kind of crime that fell under ICC jurisdiction would be most anxious to investigate that accusation and prosecute that person, if there was a *prima facie* case. The case would then not be admissible in ICC.

The adoption of resolution 1422(2002) had given Member States more time to study the Rome Statute and to digest its implications. While the Council might feel it necessary to renew the request for a further 12 months, since the Court was still in its infancy, the Secretary-General hoped that that did not become an annual routine, since it would be interpreted by the world as meaning that the Council wished to claim absolute and permanent immunity for people serving in the operations it established or authorized, undermining not only ICC's authority but also that of the Council and the legitimacy of UN peacekeeping.

Canada appealed to the Council to ensure that the extraordinary situation created by the draft resolution [S/2003/630] did not become perma-

nent. The Rome Statute's array of safeguards and checks and balances screened out any frivolous claims that might be submitted. ICC's principal purpose was to try the perpetrators of heinous crimes, which was the centrepiece in the effort to end impunity for genocide and other mass crimes. Its deterrent character was crucial in sparing future potential victims. ICC's jurisdictional reach was not limitless and its approach was entirely founded in established law. Canada said that it was also concerned about the legitimacy of the action recommended to the Council, which it urged not to renew resolution 1422(2002) indefinitely.

Greece said the EU reiterated its belief that the concerns expressed by the United States about politically motivated prosecutions were unfounded, since those concerns had been met and sufficient safeguards against such prosecutions had been built into the Statute.

New Zealand stated that it saw no need for immunity in principle. There should be no double standard for personnel engaged in UN missions. To put such personnel above the law placed their moral authority and the institution of UN peacekeeping in serious jeopardy. Moreover, the use of the procedure laid down in article 16 of the Rome Statute in a generic resolution, not in response to a particular fact situation and with the intention to renew it on an annual basis, was inconsistent with the terms and purpose of that provision. It also stretched the legitimate limits of the role and responsibility entrusted to the Council under the Charter.

Pakistan, speaking in support of the draft, said that it was unfortunate that the Rome Statute did not provide for reservations by countries, since that might have ensured wider adherence to it. As the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, Pakistan believed that UN peacekeepers should not be exposed to any arbitrary or unilateral action by any national or international body, since that could reduce the incentive for Member States to offer UN peacekeeping forces.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 4772], the Security Council adopted **resolution 1487(2003)** by vote (12-0-3). The draft [S/2003/630] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

*The Security Council,*

*Noting* the entry into force on 1 July 2002 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, done at Rome on 17 July 1998 (the Rome Statute),

*Emphasizing* the importance to international peace and security of United Nations operations,

*Noting* that not all States are parties to the Rome Statute,

*Noting also* that States parties to the Rome Statute have chosen to accept its jurisdiction in accordance with the Statute, in particular the principle of complementarity,

*Noting further* that States not party to the Rome Statute will continue to fulfil their responsibilities in their national jurisdictions in relation to international crimes,

*Determining* that operations established or authorized by the Security Council are deployed to maintain or restore international peace and security,

*Determining also* that it is in the interest of international peace and security to facilitate the ability of Member States to contribute to operations established or authorized by the Council,

*Acting* under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Requests*, consistent with the provisions of article 16 of the Rome Statute, that the International Criminal Court, if a case arises involving current or former officials or personnel from a contributing State not a party to the Rome Statute over acts or omissions relating to a United Nations established or authorized operation, shall for a twelve-month period starting 1 July 2003 not commence or proceed with investigation or prosecution of any such case, unless the Security Council decides otherwise;

2. *Expresses the intention* to renew the request set out in paragraph 1 above under the same conditions each 1 July for further twelve-month periods for as long as may be necessary;

3. *Decides* that Member States shall take no action inconsistent with paragraph 1 above and with their international obligations;

4. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

#### VOTE ON RESOLUTION 1487(2003):

*In favour:* Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, China, Guinea, Mexico, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom, United States.

*Against:* None.

*Abstaining:* France, Germany, Syrian Arab Republic.

In a statement after the vote, the United States said that it recognized the difficulty of recruiting troop contributors to UN peacekeeping operations and it was important that Member States not add concern about ICC jurisdiction to that difficulty. It did not agree that the resolution was unnecessary, since even one instance of ICC attempting to exercise jurisdiction over those involved in UN peacekeeping operations would have a seriously damaging impact on future UN operations. ICC was not a UN institution and was vulnerable at every stage of any proceeding to politicization. The Rome Statute provided no adequate check and having confidence in ICC's correct behaviour was not a sufficient safeguard.

France, explaining its abstention, said that the Court's professionalism would be judged on the facts. The recognized quality and competence of its members ensured without doubt the credibility of that international body, which provided the best safeguard against any possible suspicion of a politically motivated Court. The renewal of reso-

lution 1422(2002) risked lending credence to the perception that such exemptions were permanent, which could only weaken the Court and harm its authority.

Germany stated that it did not share the view that ICC was an impediment to peacekeeping. On the contrary, it was a safeguard and, as an institution designed to prevent impunity, it could play an important role in protecting peacekeepers in the execution of their missions.

The Syrian Arab Republic said it did not see any justification for renewing resolution 1422 (2002). The Court was a reality and had become almost universal, since 90 States were party to the Rome Statute and 140 had signed it. Hence, the adoption of resolution 1487(2003) would result in the gradual weakening of the Court's role in persecuting those who had perpetrated the most heinous crimes that came under its jurisdiction.

## Comprehensive review of peacekeeping

### Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 56/225 B [YUN 2002, p. 71], the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations continued its comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects [A/57/767]. In response to the Committee's request, the Secretary-General submitted a January report on the implementation of its recommendations [A/57/711].

The Special Committee held an organizational meeting on 3 March and a general debate on 3 and 4 March. It considered guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates; cooperation with troop-contributing countries; and enhancing UN peacekeeping capacity, including lessons learned and implementation of best practices, rapid deployment, recruitment and training, gender and peacekeeping, the safety and security of UN and associated personnel, and cooperation with regional arrangements.

The Special Committee welcomed the six issues recommended by the Secretary-General in his January report for particular attention by the Secretariat and Member States in 2003: integrating lessons learned and best practices into operational planning and coordination; developing and implementing comprehensive strategies for challenges faced by complex peacekeeping operations; enhancing rapid deployment capability; strengthening training; minimizing disciplinary problems; and strengthening regional peacekeeping capacities, particularly in Africa. It encouraged the Secretariat to continue collaborat-

ing with it in those areas and to communicate with Member States on critical areas and key topics related to the operation and management of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee requested a briefing by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on its evaluation of DPKO's restructuring and an independent review by the Secretariat of the reform process initiated by the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations [YUN 2000, p. 83] for Assembly consideration in 2004.

The Special Committee supported the Secretary-General in ensuring that the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit played a more prominent role in DPKO's work and encouraged the Department and relevant parts of the UN system to strengthen their dialogue with the Unit. To strengthen best practices, the Special Committee encouraged the Unit to discuss themes of common interest with Member States that had participated in UN peacekeeping missions, develop validation mechanisms for lessons learned and best practices, and make recommendations for applying best practices and implementing lessons learned in the planning and conduct of ongoing and future missions. It endorsed the proposal to develop a field-level lessons-learned network and supported the incorporation of lessons learned in the conduct of all mission tasks.

The Secretariat should further suggest ways to address the Organization's informational and analytical requirements, mainly with respect to peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General should inform Member States, in his next report to the Committee, on progress made in strengthening relationships between the Secretariat, other UN agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and IMF).

The Special Committee supported the integration of civilian police expertise and other rule-of-law elements in the planning for new missions, and encouraged an increased focus on UN policing issues in peacekeeping operations. Stressing that civilian police and corrections personnel might be required to use enforcement measures, it requested the Secretariat to consider assigning such personnel privileges and immunities equivalent to those of armed military personnel and to report on that issue before the Committee's 2004 session. The Secretariat should also review its policy regarding the recruitment of retired police officers for peacekeeping operations and raising the age-limit for civilian police service.

The Special Committee acknowledged the need for additional research and analysis on the interrelated areas of disarmament, demobiliza-

tion and reintegration, security sector reform and the strengthening of the rule of law in post-conflict environments, in order to draw lessons for the planning and conduct of current and future peacekeeping operations, and for conceptual clarity and an appraisal of the expertise and capacities within and outside the UN system to ensure operational coherence. It stressed the importance of early planning and coordination of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration components in peacekeeping operations and the provision of resources to accomplish the mandated tasks.

The Special Committee urged the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security, and encouraged the Secretary-General to take concrete steps towards that end.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/57/522/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/336** without vote [agenda item 78].

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

*The General Assembly,*

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

*Recalling in particular* its resolutions 56/225 B of 22 May 2002 and 57/129 of 11 December 2002,

*Affirming* that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, inter alia, 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 many Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,

*Bearing in mind* the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 39 to 206 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 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 fifty-eighth session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

By **decision 58/524** of 9 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Fourth Committee on its consideration of the agenda item "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" [A/58/474]. On 23 December, the Assembly decided that that agenda item would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session (**decision 58/565**).

#### **Operations in 2003**

On 1 January, 13 UN peacekeeping operations were in place—4 in Africa, 3 in Asia, 3 in Europe and 3 in the Middle East. During the year, 1 mission ended and 1 was launched. The total number in place at the end of the year remained at 13.

#### **Africa**

In Africa, the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was twice extended by the Security Council for six months, the second time from 30 September 2003 to 31 March 2004. In July, the Council approved the Secretary-General's recommendation to draw down the Mission's forces towards a final withdrawal by December 2004. Also in July, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) until 30 July 2004. In May, it had authorized deployment until 1 September 2003 of an Interim Emergency Multinational Force in Bunia, in cooperation with MONUC, and requested the Secretary-General to deploy a reinforced UN presence in Bunia by mid-August. The mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

(MINURSO) was extended until 31 January 2004. The Council also extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 15 March 2004. In September, the Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to, among other things, support implementation of the ceasefire agreement (see p. 188).

In other action, the Council, in August, renewed for six months the authorization given to Member States participating in the forces of the Economic Community of West African States together with the French forces supporting them in Côte d'Ivoire (**resolution 1498(2003)**) (see p. 177).

#### Asia

In Asia, in the wake of the action of the coalition led by the United States and the United Kingdom in Iraq (see p. 333), the Council, in July, decided that the final mandate of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) would end on 6 October; the demilitarized zone between the two countries would also end on that date. The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), established in 1949, remained in place to monitor the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir. The Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) until 20 May 2004.

In other action, the Council, in October, extended the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for a further period of 12 months and expanded its mandate to include support for the Afghan Transitional Authority and its successors in maintaining security in areas outside Kabul and its environs (**resolution 1510(2003)**) (see p. 310). Also in October, it authorized a multinational force under unified command to contribute to the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq (**resolution 1511 (2003)**) (see p. 348).

#### Europe

In Europe, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 31 January 2004 and endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation that a civilian police component be added to strengthen its capacity to carry out its mandate. The Council also extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until 15 June 2004. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Serbia and Montenegro (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), remained in place.

#### Middle East

Three long-standing operations continued in the Middle East: the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which continued to observe the truce in Palestine; the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), whose mandate was extended until 31 January 2004; and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), whose mandate was renewed until 30 June 2004.

### Roster of 2003 operations

#### UNTSO

United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

*Established:* June 1948.

*Mandate:* To assist in supervising the observance of the truce in Palestine.

*Strength as at December 2003:* 154 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 2003:* 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 2003:* 1,214 troops, 47 civilian police.

#### UNDOF

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

*Established:* June 1974.

*Mandate:* To supervise the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights.

*Strength as at December 2003:* 1,032 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.

*Strength as at December 2003:* 1,991 troops.

**UNIKOM**

United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

*Established:* April 1991.

*Ended:* 6 October 2003.

*Mandate:* To monitor the demilitarized zone along the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

**MINURSO**

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

*Established:* April 1991.

*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 2003:* 27 troops, 200 military observers.

**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 2003:* 118 military observers, 10 civilian police.

**UNMIK**

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

*Established:* June 1999.

*Mandate:* To promote, among other things, the establishment of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo, perform basic civilian administrative functions, organize and oversee the development of provisional institutions, facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo's future status, support 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 2003:* 3,691 civilian police, 40 military observers.

**UNAMSIL**

United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

*Established:* October 1999.

*Mandate:* To cooperate with the Government of Sierra Leone and other parties in the implementation of the Peace Agreement signed in Lomé, Togo, on 7 July 1999, including, among other things, to assist in the implementation of

the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan, monitor adherence to the ceasefire agreement of 18 May 1999 and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

*Strength as at December 2003:* 11,232 troops, 269 military observers, 130 civilian police.

**MONUC**

United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

*Established:* November 1999.

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

*Strength as at December 2003:* 9,981 troops, 553 military observers, 115 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.

*Strength as at December 2003:* 3,795 troops, 209 military observers.

**UNMISET**

United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

*Established:* May 2002.

*Mandate:* To provide assistance to the core administrative structures and interim law enforcement and public security of East Timor (renamed Timor-Leste), including assisting in the development of the East Timor Police Service, and contribute to the maintenance of East Timor's external and internal security.

*Strength as at December 2003:* 1,675 troops, 319 civilian police, 79 military observers.

**UNMIL**

United Nations Mission in Liberia

*Established:* 19 September 2003.

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

*Strength as at December 2003:* 8,387 troops, 107 military observers, 312 civilian police.

### **Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations**

#### **Financing**

Expenditures for United Nations peacekeeping activities for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 totalled \$2,501 million, compared to a final figure of \$2,572 million for the previous 12-month period. The decrease in expenditure (3 per cent) resulted from scaled-down operations in UNIFIL, UNIKOM, UNAMSIL, UNMIK and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)/UNMISSET, and the completion of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), offset by an increase in spending in MONUC.

The overall positive financial position of UN peacekeeping operations was relatively unchanged from the previous year, with increased cash availability in active missions offset by reduced cash in the closed missions (see below). Outstanding unpaid assessments for active peacekeeping operations declined 23 per cent from \$662.2 million to \$508.3 million. As at 30 June 2003, total unpaid assessments amounted to \$1.1 billion, compared to \$1.2 billion the previous year. That enabled earlier settlement of debts in active missions to troop-contributing countries. On the other hand, closed missions had reduced cash as funds were used for strategic deployment stocks at UNLB (see p. 72) and \$84.4 million was returned to Member States. Available cash for all operations totalled \$1,717.4 million, while liabilities came to \$1,477.2 million.

**Notes of Secretary-General.** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/233 A [YUN 1994, p. 1338], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly's Fifth Committee a February note [A/C.5/57/34] providing information on proposed budgetary requirements for all peacekeeping operations, UNLB and the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 in the amount of \$2,186,658,800. That amount was updated in March [A/C.5/57/34/Rev.1] to \$2,304,623,700, reflecting revised estimates for the expansion of MONUC, as authorized by Security Council resolution 1445(2002) [YUN 2002, p. 123].

#### **Financial performance and proposed budgets**

In February/March [A/57/772], ACABQ considered the financial performance reports for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and the proposed budgets for the period 1 July 2003 to 30

June 2004 of UNOMIG, MINURSO, UNAMSIL, UNFICYP, UNMIK, UNIFIL, UNDOF, UNMEE, UNLB, MONUC, UNTAET and UNMISSET. It also considered the Secretary-General's overview report [A/57/723] on the financing of UN peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, the report on the financial performance of UNMIBH, including the liaison offices in Belgrade and Zagreb and the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 [A/57/684], and the report on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 [A/57/725] and the proposed budget of the support account for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 [A/57/732].

Expenditures for peacekeeping missions, including UNLB and the support account for peacekeeping operations, for the period ended 30 June 2002 amounted to \$2,548.5 million against appropriations of \$2,773.3 million gross, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$224.8 million. For the preceding period ended 30 June 2001, the unencumbered balance was \$258.1 million. ACABQ took those balances into account in its recommendations on budget requirements for 2003/04. UNLB expenditures totalled \$9 million against a provision of the same amount, while expenditures against the support account for peacekeeping operations totalled \$84.3 million from a provision of \$89.7 million. As at 28 February 2003, unliquidated obligations amounted to \$221 million.

Commenting on the performance reports, ACABQ noted in a number of missions that substantial resources were regularly retained to meet obligations to vendors, staff and others. It considered that the large amounts of unliquidated obligations and savings regularly realized on prior period obligations indicated a laxity in obligating funds and illustrated weaknesses in budget implementation and monitoring, and requested that those problems be addressed. Noting the numerous budget variances (savings or over-expenditures), with only generic explanations provided, ACABQ recommended that in the future overruns or savings be fully explained, with specific information on the circumstances that led to the savings or overruns in a particular object of expenditure.

Concerning the delegation of financial authority, ACABQ trusted that, when the delegation of authority in budget implementation to chief administrative officers had been effected and monitoring tools were in place at Headquarters and in the field, questions concerning the analy-

sis of budget implementation would be answered promptly.

Having considered results-based budgeting, objective-setting and presentation, ACABQ welcomed the efforts to streamline the budget presentation. However, the results-based budgeting exercise still appeared to be primarily Headquarters-driven and, because it was still relatively new, systematic and more focused training and coaching should be continued to ensure a coherent and comprehensive understanding and commitment to it in all the missions.

ACABQ, referring to the Secretary-General's overview report on the financing of UN peacekeeping (see p. 82), suggested that the report in future should include such cross-cutting issues as air operations, procurement and inventory management. For each mission, the Secretariat should combine in a single document the performance report and the proposed budget.

Acknowledging the Secretary-General's intention that the new results-based budget format would improve decision-making and permit the General Assembly to focus on policy issues rather than details, ACABQ requested that he clearly indicate those policy issues requiring Assembly attention and reinstate the introductory information in the budget document that had been eliminated. Mandate objectives defined in budget documents should be in strict compliance with those established by the Security Council and, except for the support component, the number of expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and planned outputs should be reduced to facilitate monitoring and reporting.

ACABQ was of the opinion that having a uniform framework comprising three or four components (political, military, civilian police and support) for all missions had led to anomalies in some missions, and considered that it might be appropriate for some missions, depending on their mandate, to have additional ones. The Secretary-General was asked to explain, in the next budget submission, the rationale for the components used to prepare the budgets. The mandate implementation plan should constitute the framework for budget preparation and performance reporting and a clear link should be established in performance reports between the results-based framework and the existing mandate plan. Expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and planned outputs under each component should be relevant and realistic, and the support component dealing with operational costs should include plans to increase efficiency and productivity. The Committee shared the concerns of the Board of Auditors [A/57/5, vol. II] that not all missions had

well-developed tools to measure, monitor and evaluate actual performance against the objectives set out in the proposed results-based programme budgets.

ACABQ, noting the substantial capital expenditure required for communication and information technology projects, recommended that future requirements for new and replacement programmes be based on a comprehensive analysis of the functional requirements of the field missions. A clear time frame for completing such projects should be indicated in the proposed budget submission and the status of their implementation reflected in the performance report. The information provided on the nine information technology systems in DPKO showed a lack of a comprehensive identification of needs and a potential for duplication of databases. The review it had requested of the many databases developed or being developed, with a view to ensuring compatibility and interactivity, had not been undertaken. ACABQ recommended that the Secretariat, in the context of the 2004/05 peacekeeping budgets, evaluate the cost-benefit and the efficiency and productivity results of the DPKO information technology systems to be implemented by the end of 2003 to ensure that the objectives had been realized and to correct any weaknesses. It reiterated its caution against the tendency to acquire the most up-to-date communication and data-processing equipment, which might not be appropriate to the practical needs of the mission.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/290 B** without vote [agenda item 126].

#### **Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004" and the relevant sections of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon,

*Welcoming* the presentation of the overview report,

#### **Results-based budgeting and budget presentation**

1. *Recalls* its resolutions 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 56/293 of 27 June 2002 and 57/300 of 20 December 2002;

2. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to implement a results-based budgeting format and the timely presentation of the proposed

peacekeeping budgets for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 37 to 56 and 134 to 136 of its report, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, in applying results-based budgeting to peacekeeping budgets, the specific characteristics and mandates of each peacekeeping mission are taken fully into account;

5. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General, as reflected in paragraph 44 of the report of the Advisory Committee, that the new budget format will improve decision-making, and reaffirms that the peacekeeping budget documents should contain all the information needed for Member States to reach well-informed decisions, including a full justification of the resources requested;

6. *Reiterates* that the format of the budgets should be in accordance with the mandates of the General Assembly;

7. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed sixtieth session an evaluation of the implementation of results-based budgeting in peacekeeping operations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop further the link between mission objectives and the resources requested in the proposed peacekeeping budgets for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

9. *Decides* that the performance reports and the proposed budgets for peacekeeping operations and the support account should continue to be presented in separate documents;

#### **Communication and information technology**

10. *Notes with concern* the observations of the Advisory Committee on the expansion of information technology programmes in some peacekeeping missions undergoing downsizing of activities and personnel and its caution against an apparent tendency to acquire the most up-to-date communication and data-processing equipment, which might not be appropriate for the practical needs of the missions;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the functional requirements of field missions for communication and information technology, including replacement programmes, disposal of used information technology assets, the status of ongoing and new projects and an evaluation of current policies and practices in terms of their cost-effectiveness, efficiency and productivity benefits;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the above-mentioned report is consistent with the direction of the Organization's broader information and communication technology strategy and that it takes into account the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 102 to 106 of its report;

#### **Training**

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that investments in training are based on need, aimed at improving efficiency and performance and congruent with the career development of staff;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, to refine the policy of management on training and training-related travel costs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and in peacekeeping missions, taking into account requirements related to the provision by the United Nations of training for military personnel, civilian police and civilian staff and considering paragraphs 127 to 133 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session;

#### **Recruitment**

15. *Recalls* paragraph 2 of its resolution 57/287 A of 20 December 2002;

16. *Notes with concern* the continuing delays in the recruitment of personnel in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and its negative impact on peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage greater use of national staff, as defined in paragraph 80 of the report of the Advisory Committee, whenever possible and cost-effective, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session;

18. *Urges* the Secretary-General to expedite recruitment for field missions, taking into account, as appropriate, the delegation of recruitment authority to field missions and their accountability in that regard, including the use of fair and transparent recruitment procedures and monitoring mechanisms, consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to it thereon at its resumed fifty-eighth session;

19. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 78 and 80 to 85 of its report;

20. *Stresses* that any reclassification of posts should be consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations;

#### **Official travel**

21. *Reiterates* that future resource requests for official travel should be adequately justified, including how such travel will help to achieve a measurable result in fulfilling stated objectives;

#### **Procurement and contract management**

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session a comprehensive report on procurement and contract management for peacekeeping operations containing specific proposals addressing any possible conflict of interest that may arise in this area concerning United Nations staff members associated with the procurement cycle, including the feasibility of establishing a code of ethics, a declaration of independence and provisions to ensure confidentiality of information associated with their functions as United Nations staff members, also taking into account paragraphs 116 to 119 of the report of the Advisory Committee.

On 23 December, the Assembly decided that the item on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of UN peacekeeping operations would remain for consideration at its

resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session (**decision 58/565**).

#### *Closed missions*

In April [A/57/789], the Secretary-General updated the information, as at 30 June 2002, on the financial position of 10 closed peacekeeping missions for which financial performance reports had already been submitted: the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA); the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH); the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL); the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ); the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM); the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP); the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, UNPREDEP and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (UNPF); the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH); the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) and the Civilian Police Support Group; and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The Secretary-General recommended that, in the light of the overall financial situation of the Organization and the fact that assessed contributions to peacekeeping in the amount of \$1.5 billion remained unpaid as at 15 March 2003, the return of cash available for credit to Member States be suspended until the financial position improved in respect of the fund balances of those missions.

In a May report on improving the financial situation of the United Nations [A/57/489/Add.1], the Secretary-General indicated that if, of the \$339 million available in the closed missions, \$169 million was to be returned to Member States, a balance of only \$170 million would remain. He therefore recommended, in view of the projected decrease in peacekeeping cash and as a matter of prudent financial management, that financial regulation 5.5 of the Financial Regulations and Rules in respect of the closed missions be suspended to give the Organization a degree of financial flexibility until its financial situation improved.

Addressing the Fifth Committee on 19 May [A/C.5/57/SR.52], the ACABQ Chairman stated that suspension of financial regulation 5.5 would result in the retention of a revised amount of

\$168.9 million. ACABQ recommended that more clarification and information be provided in the context of its examination of the report on improving the financial situation of the United Nations and the performance reports of closed missions before a decision was taken on the suspension of the relevant financial regulation.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/323** without vote [agenda item 126].

#### **Closed peacekeeping missions**

##### *The General Assembly*

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2002, and on the financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola, the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia, the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to return 50 per cent of the net cash available for credit to Member States as at 30 June 2002, in the amount of 84,446,000 United States dollars, by 30 June 2003, based on the scale applicable to the missions' last assessment;

3. *Decides* to postpone the return of the remaining 50 per cent of the net cash available for credit to Member States, in the amount of 84,446,000 dollars, until 31 March 2004, based on the scale applicable to the missions' last assessment, in respect of the fund balances of the United Nations Mission in Haiti; the United Nations Observer Group in Central America and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador; the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force; the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters; the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group; the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola; the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda; the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan; the United Nations Transition Assistance Group; and the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia in the light of the overall financial situation of the Organization and the fact that assessed contributions to peacekeeping in the amount of 1.4 billion dollars remain unpaid as at 31 March 2003;

4. *Also decides* that the provisions of financial regulation 5.5 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of

the United Nations should be suspended in respect of the liabilities and fund balance of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala; the United Nations Operation in Mozambique; the United Nations Operation in Somalia II; the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti; the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia; and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic in the light of the cash shortage of these missions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an updated report and make proposals for consideration at its resumed fifty-eighth session on how to address the issue of outstanding dues owed to Member States from closed peacekeeping missions that are in net cash deficit;

6. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the disposition of assets of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic;

7. *Approves* the donation of assets of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda with a total inventory value of 12,581,000 dollars and corresponding residual value of 2,401,300 dollars to the Government of Rwanda;

8. *Also approves* the donation of assets of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda with a total inventory value of 79,200 dollars and corresponding residual value of 53,400 dollars to the medical unit of a Member State;

9. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-eighth session the updated report on the position of closed peacekeeping missions requested in paragraph 5 above under the agenda item entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations".

### Peacekeeping support account

The Secretary-General, in February [A/57/725], submitted the performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. Expenditures for the period totalled \$84,343,000 against an apportionment of \$89,749,250, resulting in an unencumbered balance of \$5,406,250, which was due mainly to a higher-than-budgeted vacancy rate and underexpenditures in respect of travel, communications and information technology.

Also in February [A/57/732], the Secretary-General submitted the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 in the amount of \$115,863,100 gross (\$100,318,500 net), which provided for 761 posts.

In April [A/57/776], ACABQ recommended resource reductions totalling \$4,371,300 gross (\$4,090,800 net) and that the Assembly approve total staffing and non-staffing requirements of

\$111,491,800 gross (\$96,227,700 net) for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. It also recommended that miscellaneous income of \$3,126,000 for 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 be applied to the resources required for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and that the balance (\$108,365,800 gross (\$93,101,700 net)) be prorated among individual peacekeeping operation budgets for that period.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/318** without vote [agenda item 126].

#### Support account for peacekeeping operations

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 56/241 of 24 December 2001 and 56/293 of 27 June 2002, its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and budget for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004", his report on the financial performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, his report on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

*Having also considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the experience with resident investigators and on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities, as well as the above-mentioned reports of the Advisory Committee, specifically paragraphs 86 to 95 of the first report with regard to resident investigators and auditors, and paragraph 31 of the second report with regard to gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities,

*Recognizing* the importance of the United Nations being able to respond and deploy rapidly 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 mandates, 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;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the experience with resident investigators;

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities;

4. *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;

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

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

7. *Decides* to maintain, for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, as approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B of 7 June 1996;

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

9. *Also reaffirms* that any delegation of authority to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and field missions requires full accountability of programme managers;

10. *Further reaffirms* paragraph 15 of its resolution 56/293, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session a comprehensive report on measures taken in this regard and the criteria used for recruitment to all support account posts, in particular those in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, bearing in mind that the system of desirable ranges does not currently apply to support account posts;

11. *Regrets* that the D-2 post for the administration of change management is still vacant, and urges the Secretary-General to fill it as soon as possible;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the level of the support account on a regular basis, taking into consideration the number, size and complexity of peacekeeping operations;

13. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to carry out a review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations as approved by the General Assembly, to gauge the effects of management reform measures taken since the approval of the report and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

14. *Decides* to review at its resumed fifty-eighth session the existing posts approved in its resolutions 55/238 of 23 December 2000, 56/241 and 56/293 and in the present resolution in order to consider their justification, taking into account the ongoing evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat of the impact of the recent restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on its performance in the backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

15. *Approves* the establishment of eight posts (2 P-4, 4 P-3 and 2 General Service) for the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to be divided evenly between the regional hubs in Vienna and Nairobi, and decides to review these posts and functions in the next support account budget, taking into account the relevant workload and coverage of their activities;

16. *Also approves* the establishment of a P-3 post and general temporary assistance for one General Service post (Other level) in the Executive Office of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

17. *Further approves* the transfer from peacekeeping operations budgets to the support account budget of 27 resident auditor and assistant posts at the same level as in the budget for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, to be deployed as necessary, bearing in mind that whenever a mission's mandate is adjusted or terminated, the number of audit posts should be adjusted or terminated accordingly;

18. *Decides* that any support account posts that remain vacant and any new posts that are not filled for twelve months from the date of their establishment would require rejustification in the subsequent budget submission, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of this decision;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the next support account report details of reclassification upward and reclassification downward, if any, of posts, as well as the breakdown of appointments to posts reclassified upward in the previous two years, as between internal and external candidates, and to provide annual data thereafter;

20. *Decides* that the person recruited to the gender adviser post shall be responsible for all operational support activities and all related activities pertaining to the implementation of individual mandates of various peacekeeping operations in the area of gender mainstreaming, including those activities relating to the field operations of each peacekeeping mission;

21. *Affirms* that the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women is the competent authority for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations as a whole and is responsible for the formulation of policy as mandated by the intergovernmental bodies, and in this regard requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to establish a viable, effective mechanism for close coordination with the Special Adviser, ensuring that all plans of action on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations are consistent with the existing mandates;

22. *Stresses* that the creation of a gender adviser in the Best Practices Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations does not constitute a precedent to be followed by other departments and should not itself lead to the establishment of a gender unit in the Department, and also stresses the importance of not duplicating functions and capacities that already exist elsewhere in the Secretariat;

23. *Decides* to review the establishment and the level of the post of gender adviser in the context of paragraph 14 above;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to report to the

General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session on the cases processed by the regional investigators;

25. *Decides* to establish, on a trial basis, a P-4 post in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake oversight functions with regard to military aspects of peacekeeping operations, and also not to approve the amount covering six months of consultancy services for three experts mentioned in paragraph 70 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation and impact of this decision in the context of his support account budget proposal for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

27. *Concurs* with the observation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 51 of its report that the term “inspectorate” or “inspector-general” does not appropriately reflect the intended use of the consultancy funds requested in paragraph 43 of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and should not be used;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the relationship between the proposals requested in paragraphs 43 and 62 of his report, and decides to review this issue in the context of the consideration of the proposed budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

29. *Decides* not to approve the resources requested in paragraph 115 of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to present a full justification for the establishment of those posts in the context of his next budget submission for the support account for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005;

30. *Approves* the Military Division training budget at the level requested by the Secretary-General;

31. *Regrets* that the Secretary-General has not included in his report an annex containing information on the status of implementation of relevant adopted recommendations made by the Advisory Committee and other oversight bodies, as requested in paragraph 17 of its resolution 56/293;

#### **Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002**

32. *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 2001 to 30 June 2002;

#### **Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004**

33. *Approves* the support account requirements in the amount of 112,075,800 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, including 702 continuing and 41 new temporary posts and their related post and non-post requirements;

#### **Financing of requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations**

34. *Decides* that requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 8,532,250 dollars in respect of the period ended 30 June 2002 to be applied to the re-

sources required for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

(b) The increase of 517,100 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 to be added to the credits from the amount referred to in subparagraph (a) above;

(c) The amount of 33,250,000 dollars in excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the period ended 30 June 2002 to be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

(d) The balance of 70,293,550 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

(e) The estimated staff assessment income of 15,320,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (d) above, to be prorated among the individual active peacekeeping operations budgets.

Also on 18 June, by **decision 57/588**, the Assembly deferred until its fifty-eighth session consideration of the ACABQ report on the financial performance report for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

#### **Peacekeeping Reserve Fund**

The Secretary-General reported in April [A/57/798] that the level of the United Nations Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, established by General Assembly resolution 47/217 [YUN 1992, p. 1022] to ensure the rapid deployment of peacekeeping operations, stood at \$197,387,000 as at 30 June 2002. Following the transfer of \$14,137,000 to the UNLB account to meet requirements for the strategic deployment stocks in accordance with Assembly resolution 56/292 [YUN 2002, p. 64], the amount remaining in the Fund stood at \$183,250,000, \$33,250,000 above the authorized level of \$150,000,000. The Secretary-General recommended that the excess amount be applied to the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

In May [A/C.5/57/SR.52], ACABQ agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal to restore the Fund to its authorized level of \$150,000,000.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/317** without vote [agenda item 126].

#### **Peacekeeping Reserve Fund**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the note by the Secretary-General on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and the related re-

ports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

*Recalling* its resolution 47/217 of 23 December 1992 on the establishment of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and its resolutions 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 and 51/218 E of 17 June 1997,

*Recalling also* its resolution 57/290 A of 20 December 2002 on the inclusion of Switzerland and Timor-Leste in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund,

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

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund as at 31 December 2002;

2. *Endorses* the recommendation contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its full implementation;

3. *Decides* to apply the amount of 33,250,000 United States dollars, representing the amount in excess of the authorized level of 150 million dollars for the Fund, to the requirements of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, consequent upon the full establishment of the strategic deployment stocks and the pre-mandate commitment authority, to review the level of the Fund and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-eighth session.

### **Consolidation of peacekeeping accounts**

In March [A/57/746], the Secretary-General, in response to the General Assembly request contained in resolution 56/293 [YUN 2002, p. 77] that he report on the feasibility of consolidating the accounts of the different peacekeeping missions, said that it was not possible to implement that request within the framework of current practice for reporting, budgeting and financing of peacekeeping operations and the Financial Regulations and Rules, which treated each peacekeeping mission independently. However, he did outline the possible benefits of consolidation and examined the range of issues that would need to be taken into account.

The potential benefits included greater flexibility in utilizing peacekeeping resources, thus eliminating the need for cross-borrowing between accounts, more consistent and timely reimbursement to troop-contributing Governments, and streamlined legislative and administrative processes for financing, with only one peacekeeping financing resolution to be adopted and one assessment on Member States to be approved.

If consolidation were applied retroactively, outstanding contributions to each operation, under financial regulation 3.5 whereby contribu-

tions were applied to the oldest outstanding arrears, would be commingled. If applied prospectively, amounts owed up to the date of consolidation would be mission-specific, while amounts owed thereafter would not. A mechanism for applying subsequent receipts would need to be developed, and financial regulations and rules changed. For accounts of active peacekeeping missions combined prospectively, transitional measures would be required to provide the missions with sufficient cash from the date of consolidation until the receipt of new assessments, and to prioritize the settlement of liabilities.

As at 30 June 2002, 20 closed peacekeeping missions had combined assets of \$1,231 million and combined liabilities amounting to \$462 million. Of those 20 missions, 12 had sufficient cash to meet all of their respective outstanding liabilities.

The Secretary-General suggested a phased approach to consolidation, with accounts of active peacekeeping missions being consolidated retroactively, with separate accounts maintained for closed missions. Procedures for the appropriation and assessment of resources would need to be revised. The Assembly resolution on the financing of peacekeeping operations, including the support account and UNLB, would contain a single amount to be appropriated and assessed on Member States, with each operation constituting a section, as in the case of the regular budget, and defining the Secretary-General's authority to transfer funds between peacekeeping operations. Assessments would be de-linked from the continuation of Security Council mandates. That approach would streamline the budget approval process, reduce the number of legislative decisions required and assessments to be approved and facilitate planning for Member States. Unencumbered balances, interest and other miscellaneous income would be offset against the next appropriation for peacekeeping. New peacekeeping operations could be financed in accordance with sections IV and XI of resolution 49/233 A [YUN 1994, p. 1338] and resolution 56/292 [YUN 2002, p. 64]. A consolidated summary of the budgetary requirements would serve as the basis for the Assembly to appropriate funds and decide on the financing of peacekeeping operations. Separate annual budget and performance reports would, however, continue to be prepared for each peacekeeping operation, the support account for peacekeeping operations and UNLB. Financial statements for active missions would report on consolidated expenditures compared to the overall appropriation. Final performance reports and annual updates would not be required for those missions since the accounts would be open-

ended. However, final performance reports would continue to be submitted in respect of the closed missions, for which separate accounts would be maintained.

ACABQ, in an April report [A/57/772], acknowledged that the approach outlined by the Secretary-General was not compatible with current financial procedures and pointed out that de-linking assessments from Council action on individual mandates might create complications for some Member States which, in accordance with their domestic legal requirements, required Council action before they could pay assessments. The Assembly should provide further guidance on the matter.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/319** without vote [agenda item 126].

#### **Feasibility of consolidating the accounts of the various peacekeeping operations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* paragraph 10 of its resolution 56/293 of 27 June 2002,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility of consolidating the accounts of the various peacekeeping operations and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Decides* to defer consideration of this question until the second part of its resumed fifty-eighth session, and requests the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive report, taking into account the views expressed, questions raised and information requested by Member States at its fifty-seventh session, including a simulation of the options proposed.

#### **Peacekeeping trust funds**

**ACABQ action.** ACABQ, in an April report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations [A/57/772], considered the question of inactive peacekeeping trust funds. It requested the Secretariat to consult with donor Member States on the disposition of the assets of those trust funds and recommended that the Assembly request Member States concerned to respond promptly to the Secretariat on the matter. The Secretary-General should complete the closing of inactive trust funds within a reasonable time.

**OIOS report.** In November [A/58/613], pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B [YUN 1994, p. 1362], 54/244 [YUN 1999, p. 1274] and 57/278 B (see p. 91), the Secretary-General trans-

mitted to the Assembly the report of OIOS on the administration of peacekeeping trust funds. OIOS conducted an audit of 31 trust funds designated by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (OPPBA) as being related to peacekeeping operations, with a combined balance of \$170 million as at 30 June 2002, to assess the effectiveness of their administration. Of the funds reviewed, 11 were active, 8 had ceased operations and showed a combined balance of \$53,177,000, with no expenditures during the fiscal year ended 30 June 2002, and 5 others related to closed peacekeeping/political missions had a combined total balance of \$3,770,000.

OIOS identified a number of common issues that needed to be addressed, including the role of implementing offices and the need for DPKO to support and monitor the designated executing bodies. To improve the management of the trust funds, OIOS recommended that, when the original purpose of a trust fund had been fulfilled or the implementing office had ceased operations, OPPBA should recommend to the donor(s) redirecting the remaining resources and designating a new implementing office, or closing the trust fund and returning the unspent balance to the donor(s). DPKO should issue a standard operating procedures manual for administering peacekeeping trust funds, which should include guidelines for determining advances and progress payments to the executing agencies, and financial reporting formats. DPKO should, in cooperation with OPPBA, develop a mechanism to finance the administrative and management costs of peacekeeping trust funds. To enhance transparency of trust fund utilization, DPKO should establish a web site to publicize information on trust fund activities and fund balances.

All the recommendations were accepted by either OPPBA or DPKO.

#### **Apportionment of costs**

In a July report with a later addendum [A/58/157 & Add.1], the Secretary-General described the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/235 [YUN 2000, p. 102], by which the Assembly adopted a new system of adjustments of the scale of assessments for the regular budget to be used in fixing rates of assessment applicable to Member States for peacekeeping operations, and resolution 55/236 [*ibid.*, p. 104] establishing the criteria for voluntary movements within that system. Annexed to the report were: the list of peacekeeping levels, based on average per capita gross national income of Member States and other factors; and a table showing the initial levels and voluntary and ad hoc movements for 2001-2003, the initial composition of levels and

assumed voluntary and ad hoc movements for 2004-2006, and relevant transitional periods, and the respective percentage of rates of assessment for the regular budget payable by each Member State for peacekeeping operations during 2004-2006. In resolution 55/235, the Assembly had, as an ad hoc arrangement, decided on a graduated rate for the share of the Republic of Korea in the costs of peacekeeping operations, ranging from 36 per cent of the regular budget assessment rate on 1 July 2001 and reaching 100 per cent in 2005. On 10 July 2003, the Republic of Korea requested that it be assigned to level D of the system for establishing rates of assessment. The updated composition levels, subject to the Assembly's decision with respect to the placement of the Republic of Korea in 2004-2005, would be used, together with the scale of assessments for 2004-2006, to establish each Member State's peacekeeping rate(s) of assessment.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 79], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/58/581], adopted **resolution 58/256** without vote [agenda item 133].

#### Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 of 23 December 2000,

*Recalling also* its request to the Secretary-General in its resolution 55/235 to update the composition of the levels of contribution of Member States for peacekeeping operations described therein on a triennial basis, in conjunction with the regular budget scale of assessment reviews, in accordance with the criteria established in the resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolutions 55/235 and 55/236,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General and of the updated composition of levels of contribution for peacekeeping operations for the period 2004 to 2006 contained therein;

2. *Endorses* the updated composition of levels of contribution for peacekeeping operations for the period 2004 to 2006 contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the updating of the composition of levels of contribution for peacekeeping operations for the period 2007 to 2009, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 55/235.

Also on 23 December, the Assembly decided that the item on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses of UN peacekeeping operations would remain for consideration at its

resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session (**decision 58/565**).

#### Accounts and auditing

At its resumed fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly considered the financial report and audited financial statements for UN peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 [A/57/5, vol. II & Corr.5], the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors [A/57/416/Add.2] and the related ACABQ report [A/57/772].

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/639/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/278 B** without vote [agenda item 110].

#### 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 2001 to 30 June 2002 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the related section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations in respect of that period,

1. *Accepts* the audited financial statements of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002;

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

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

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

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that internal control in peacekeeping missions is improved with respect to the optimum use of audit resources;

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

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

referred to in paragraph 26 of the report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

#### *Resident auditors and investigators*

**Board of Auditors.** The Board of Auditors, in its report on the audit of UN peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 [A/57/5, vol. II & Corr.5], indicated that it had followed up on the action taken by the Internal Audit Division to implement the seven recommendations made in its report for the financial period ended 30 June 2001 [YUN 2002, p. 79]. One recommendation (14 per cent) had been fully implemented and six (86 per cent) were under implementation. The Board recommended that the Internal Audit Division review the standard terms of reference of resident auditors.

**ACABQ consideration.** ACABQ, in its April report [A/57/772], noting that some 60 per cent of the Board's audit activity was carried out in field offices and peacekeeping missions, said that such fieldwork would be considerably facilitated if the Secretariat and OIOS were to ensure that the internal audit function and the resident audit capacity in peacekeeping missions were operating effectively and efficiently. Having considered the Secretary-General's 2002 report on the experience with resident investigators in peacekeeping operations [YUN 2002, p. 80], the Committee noted that OIOS was pleased with the results of mission-based investigations. However, ACABQ was concerned that the demonstrated growth in cases in the missions might have resulted from an increasing number of administrative management cases referred by mission management to OIOS investigators. Noting the OIOS observation that many peacekeeping cases routinely remained on the inactive list owing to a lack of resources to conduct investigations, ACABQ stated that there was a need to refine further the methodology for determining the cases to be investigated by OIOS, so that cases related to administrative management issues would be investigated and resolved expeditiously by the mission management itself. Based on the information provided to it, ACABQ was unable to assess whether the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the capacity of the resident auditors to perform structured value-for-money and information and communication technology audits were being implemented or were even implementable.

#### **Reimbursement issues**

##### *Equipment*

The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-seventh session, considered the Secretary-

General's 2002 reports [YUN 2002, pp. 81-82] on the processing of claims for equipment contributed and self-sustainment undertaken at peacekeeping missions [A/C.5/56/44], on the reform of the procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment [A/56/939] and on the practical aspects of wet-lease, dry-lease and self-sustainment arrangements [A/57/397].

**ACABQ report.** ACABQ, in April [A/57/772], considered the report of the Board of Auditors (see above) and the Secretary-General's 2002 reports concerning equipment [YUN 2002, p. 81].

With regard to staff capacity and expertise in the field to manage the contingent-owned equipment system, ACABQ stated that, given the importance of the subject, further progress needed to be made on the matter. It stressed the importance of further review by the Board of Auditors of such issues as memorandums of understanding, pre-deployment inspections, arrival inspections, and verification reports and personnel resources. It noted that memorandums of understanding and status-of-forces agreements had been fraught with problems and delays and expressed concern that the United Nations was often forced to start mission operations without those instruments in place. ACABQ recognized the need to streamline the process for negotiating and approving memorandums of understanding, including reducing the number of steps involved with a view to signing them before deployment. The Secretariat should analyse the experience and make suggestions for possible changes at the next meeting of the Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment in 2004.

Noting the discrepancies between equipment negotiated in memorandums of understanding with troop-contributing countries and what was actually deployed, ACABQ recognized the importance of pre-deployment inspections to improve the content of the memorandums of understanding, reduce the possibility of variances in equipment and self-sustainment and improve claims processing. It welcomed the suggestions contained in the Secretary-General's 2002 reports on streamlining the production and processing of verification reports, including electronic submission, and trusted that a reduction in the frequency of reporting requirements would not affect the completion and quality of the reports, and consequent certification and payment of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment claims. ACABQ recommended that the Secretariat make suggestions to the Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment for modifying the current monthly report-

ing cycle, which was considered too laborious and inefficient, while ensuring that the services contracted for were provided in a timely manner and without compromising the prompt processing of claims and reimbursement.

ACABQ looked forward to the implementation of the plan to process all claims for major equipment contributed and self-sustainment undertaken at peacekeeping operations and suggested that efforts should continue for the early reimbursement of troop costs and amounts held under accounts payable. Those countries that were not in the new contingent-owned equipment arrangement should be encouraged to join, which would end the write-off phenomenon (see below). The Secretariat should prepare a comprehensive working paper, including input data, to facilitate and focus the work of the 2004 meeting of the Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment. On the basis of the Working Group's recommendations, the Secretariat should prepare a comprehensive report on the issues that would require legislative action by the General Assembly.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/314** without vote [agenda item 126].

#### Management of contingent-owned equipment arrangements

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, 50/222 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 E of 17 June 1997, 54/19 A of 29 October 1999 and 54/19 B of 15 June 2000, 55/238 of 23 December 2000, paragraph 12 of resolution 55/271 of 14 June 2001, and resolutions 55/274 of 14 June 2001 and 56/241 of 24 December 2001,

*Recalling also* its decision 55/452 of 23 December 2000 to convene the post-Phase V Working Group,

*Recalling further* its resolution 55/274 of 14 June 2001, in which the Secretary-General was requested to convene in 2004 an open-ended working group of experts, for a period of no less than ten working days, to hold a triennial review of reimbursement rates for contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment, including medical services,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General, on the processing of claims for equipment contributed and self-sustainment undertaken at peacekeeping missions, on the reform of the procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment and troop costs, and on the practical aspects of wet-lease, dry-lease and self-sustainment arrangements and the section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the management of contingent-owned equipment arrangements,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;

2. *Also takes note* of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the management of contingent-owned equipment arrangements, as contained in paragraphs 60 to 76 of its report;

3. *Affirms* the importance of conducting peacekeeping operations with the maximum of efficiency and effectiveness and the need to minimize delays in processing reimbursements to troop- and equipment-contributing countries;

4. *Recognizes* the fact that delay and uncertainty in reimbursements to troop-contributing countries of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs adversely affect the ability of current and potential troop-contributing countries to participate effectively in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and in this context emphasizes the need for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions to all peacekeeping operations in full, on time and without conditions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report, taking into account, inter alia, the observations of the Advisory Committee and based on the experience gained so far, and make suggestions for any modification to the current reporting cycle to the Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment at its forthcoming meeting, scheduled for February 2004;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report, on the basis of recommendations of the Working Group, on issues that would require legislative action by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

#### Write-off of contingent-owned equipment

**Note of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly decision 56/470 [YUN 2002, p. 81], the Secretary-General submitted an April note [A/57/788] summarizing the status of the processing and settlement of contingent-owned equipment written off at seven liquidated missions. He said that all of the 1,365 cases pending for the 2001-2002 period had been processed. Out of the total reimbursable amount of \$34,818,855, \$27,561,460 had been paid. Of the remaining amount, \$2,348,538 was under certification/placed in accounts payable; \$3,861,455 was awaiting the concurrence of five Member States; \$1,047,403 was awaiting funding for certification; and \$67,727 had been placed in accounts receivable. The Secretariat was requesting Member States to concur with the proposed amounts in order to certify those claims by 30 June 2003.

By **decision 57/590** of 18 June, the Assembly concurred with the Secretariat's request.

#### Troops

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/274 [YUN 2001, p. 100], the Secretary-General, in April, submitted a report [A/57/774] in which he proposed a new methodology for reimbursement to Governments of troop costs, covering troops

and formed police units. The proposed methodology for the review of rates of reimbursement was predicated on direct costs incurred by troop contributors and simplicity of the data collection, and analysis and efficiency in the reimbursement process. The troop-cost components would be maintained, with the addition of post-deployment medical costs and peacekeeping-related training costs. The coverage of the survey would be maintained, with specific guidelines set out in the questionnaire for the number of military personnel on which the response was to be based. Cost information for military observers would be excluded. The items of personal clothing, personal gear and equipment would be modified to reflect the soldier's kit. Medical requirements, excluding those considered as national responsibility or endemic to specific peacekeeping operations, would be revised on the basis of the manual on contingent-owned equipment. Requirements for peacekeeping-related training would be updated on the basis of the proposed DPKO training manual. The proposed methodology would also include criteria for determining the validity of the survey. The Secretary-General proposed that the Assembly consider changing the periodicity of the review to a five-year cycle. The proposed questionnaire, which was annexed to the Secretary-General's report, would reflect the cost components in the new methodology.

In introducing the report in the Fifth Committee [A/C.5/57/SR.52], the UN Controller noted that it had taken into account the views of Member States as reflected in the proposals of the post-Phase V Working Group on reformed procedures for determining reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment [YUN 2001, p. 100], which had failed to agree on a methodology for determining reimbursement. The general principles to be taken into account in the reimbursement of troop costs should be built into the Organization's agreements with troop contributors.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/321** without vote [agenda item 126].

#### **Review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States,

1. *Decides* to request the Working Group on reform procedures for determining reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment to consider the proposed methodology contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Requests* the Working Group to report on the results of its review to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

#### **Management of peacekeeping assets**

##### *Liquidation*

The General Assembly had before it in June the Secretary-General's 2002 report [YUN 2002, p. 83], by which he transmitted the OIOS update of the status of implementation of its recommendations on mission liquidation activities at the United Nations [A/56/896] and a follow-up review of the status of those recommendations [A/57/622]. It also considered ACABQ's April report [A/57/772], which concluded, from the findings and observations of the Board of Auditors on the liquidation of field missions [A/57/5, vol. II], that numerous problems relating to liquidation had occurred because of the lack of budgeting, finance, accounting, procurement and inventory management skills. ACABQ stressed that staff possessing those skills in missions under liquidation should be given the opportunity to serve in other missions. Recalling its earlier comments on the persistent weaknesses of the mission liquidation process and the lengthy period between the end of a mission and the date of the final performance report, ACABQ remained concerned that all the weaknesses relating to the Secretariat's capacity to handle liquidations and other related tasks had not been fully addressed. Moreover, the expected guidelines for mission liquidation had not been promulgated. The Committee noted some improvements in the liquidation of UNMIBH (see p. 398), but was not convinced that a roster of properly qualified and experienced personnel in mission liquidation was being maintained. ACABQ recommended that the Secretary-General make innovative proposals for using and retaining peacekeeping operation personnel in those areas. However, it stressed that contractual appointments of limited duration to work for peacekeeping operations should not give rise to expectations of offers of career appointments at the United Nations.

By **decision 57/588** of 18 June, the Assembly deferred until its fifty-eighth session consideration of the OIOS 2002 reports.

##### *Field assets control system*

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/290 [YUN 2002, p. 83], the Secretary-General submitted a March report on progress in the implementation of the field assets control system (FACS) [A/57/765], covering developments since his previous report in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 102]. The

Secretary-General said that the Communications and Information Technology Service had decided that FACS should be phased out by mid-2004 and replaced by an upgraded web-based system, Galileo, using structured query language. The new system would include additional data-management, analysis and reporting tools for more effective, reliable and timely information management and enhanced data exchange and reporting. Galileo would be centrally managed and administered from UNLB and UN Headquarters. It would enhance the ability of the Logistics Support Division to effectively monitor property records and allow other field missions to review the property registers of existing missions to maximize the use of the Organization's assets. The web-based system would also enhance real-time reporting and be more intuitive and user-friendly.

The Galileo system, which would be integrated with the Mercury procurement system and the Integrated Management Information System, would be implemented at UNLB in July and at Headquarters in August 2003, and would be deployed in all current missions by March 2004. Once Galileo was fully implemented in all missions, FACS would be decommissioned.

By **decision 57/588** of 18 June, the Assembly deferred to its fifty-eighth (2003) session consideration of the Secretary-General's report on FACS.

#### *Procurement and inventory management*

ACABQ, in April [A/57/772], noted that the Board of Auditors, in its report for the financial period ended 30 June 2002 [A/57/5, vol. II], had identified problems in procurement and contract management relating to the issue of a code of ethics for procurement and inadequate training of procurement officers, among other issues. ACABQ found timely and essential the Board's recommendation that the Administration expedite the promulgation and implementation of a code of ethics and declaration of independence by all staff members associated with the procurement cycle. It welcomed the Board's intention to update the audit manual to take account of best practices, and requested the Board to follow up on the implementation of its recommendation on a code of ethics.

With regard to training, ACABQ trusted that the implementation of the Procurement Division's training programme would eliminate the deficiencies identified by the Board. It noted DPKO's intention to conduct a comprehensive review of the acquisition process and requested the Board to follow up on the issues reflected in its

report and to include the related information in its next audit report on peacekeeping operations.

As to inventory management, ACABQ was concerned that no progress had been made in achieving efficiency in recording and accounting for inventory and in the work of the Local Property Survey Boards. It stressed that the volume and value of the Organization's inventory in peacekeeping operations demanded that greater attention be paid to proper and effective inventory management, including disposal of obsolete and unusable assets. The Administration should report to the Board of Auditors on the implementation of its recommendations on inventory management and the Board was asked to ascertain whether changes had been made to remedy the inefficiency and other weaknesses it had identified in its current and previous audits.

In **resolution 57/290 B** of 18 June (see p. 83), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to its resumed fifty-eighth (2004) session a comprehensive report on procurement and contract management for peacekeeping operations.

**OIOS report.** In January [A/57/718], the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B [YUN 1994, p. 1362] and 54/244 [YUN 1999, p. 1274], transmitted the OIOS report on the audit of the procurement of goods and services by DPKO through letters of assist to determine the effectiveness of that procurement method and DPKO's compliance with the relevant Financial Regulations and Rules. A sample of 35 letters of assist valued at \$71.4 million was reviewed out of the 274 issued by DPKO valued at \$183 million during 2000-2001.

The audit showed that the Procurement Division of the Office of Central Support Services had not revised the guidelines for administering letters of assist, nor had DPKO drawn up a comprehensive list of strictly military goods and services that were unavailable through commercial sources. Letters of assist sometimes included goods and services that could be procured from commercial sources through competitive bidding. DPKO's Finance Management and Support Service had made \$11.6 million in payments before the relevant letters of assist were completed and/or signed by the providing Government and had processed claims for goods and services without the required letters of assist. DPKO's selection criteria were also unclear.

To increase transparency and ensure more economical procurement, OIOS recommended that DPKO: ensure that letters of assist were expeditiously prepared and submitted for government signature in order to adequately obligate funds and support payments; promulgate, in

consultation with the Procurement Division, revised guidelines for letters of assist that specified the prerequisites for their use, included selection procedures, and required the use of cost-comparison methods; discontinue the use of letters of assist for procuring medical supplies, transferring that responsibility to the Procurement Division, except for supplies provided under memorandums of understanding with Member States; establish, in cooperation with the Procurement Division, a roster of Governments willing to provide goods and services under letters of assist and develop competitive procurement procedures for their award; and ensure that the issuance of letters of assist was based on adequate cost comparison and analysis of competitive offers obtained from the largest possible number of Member States.

OIOS also recommended that the UN Controller review and authorize the payment of claims that were not supported by a duly signed letter of assist after obtaining the necessary justification for such claims from DPKO.

The Assembly, in **resolution 57/287 C** of 15 April (see p. 1387), requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the applicable OIOS recommendations were implemented fully by relevant departments and peacekeeping missions.

#### *UN Logistics Base*

The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-seventh session, considered the financial performance report of the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 [A/57/671]. Expenditures for the period totalled \$8,970,800 gross (\$8,149,600 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of \$11,800 gross (\$24,800 net). The Assembly was asked to take action on that balance and on the interest income of \$289,000, other/miscellaneous income of \$156,000 and savings on or cancellation of prior-period obligations of \$246,000.

The Assembly also had before it the proposed budget for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, amounting to \$23,262,900 gross (\$22,004,400 net) [A/57/670 & Corr.1], which represented an increase of \$8,969,700 gross in total resources in relation to the apportionment for the previous period. The proposed increase reflected an 11.9 per cent rise in civilian personnel costs, a 103.1 per cent increase in operational costs, and a 2.7 per cent increase in staff assessment. The budget provided for the deployment of 37 international and 99 national staff.

Commenting on the performance report for 2001/02, ACABQ, in April [A/57/772/Add.9], requested that information on the technique used and the experience gained in identifying and es-

timating the cost of each service provided on a reimbursable basis be made available to peacekeeping missions, and that a methodology for reflecting the impact of reimbursable expenditure in the budget estimates be developed and used in the next budget estimate.

Regarding the 2003/04 budget estimates, ACABQ recommended that the current budget presentation be maintained, and that the Secretary-General consolidate the report on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks with that on the budget and performance of UNLB. It requested a comprehensive examination of the merits of transferring to UNLB post and non-post resources of the support account for peacekeeping operations earmarked for meeting communications and information technology needs and retaining at Headquarters only a few posts for policy and liaison functions. It did not recommend approval of the proposed increases for miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment, training and travel. ACABQ recommended that the unencumbered balance and other income from the previous period be applied to the 2003/04 proposed budget and that the Assembly approve cost estimates of \$22,208,100 gross for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

In June [A/C.5/57/38], the Secretary-General submitted to the Fifth Committee a note on the amounts to be apportioned in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share of UNLB for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/320** without vote [agenda item 126].

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

*The General Assembly,*

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

*Recalling also* its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 56/289 of 27 June 2002,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

*Reiterating* the importance of establishing an accurate inventory of assets,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the facilities provided by the Government of Italy to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

2. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on a comprehensive examination of the merits of establishing a global procurement hub for all peacekeeping missions in Brindisi recommended by the Advisory Committee, the merits of relocating to Brindisi all support account post and non-post resources at Headquarters pertaining to the Logistics Division, as well as those related to communications and information technology services related to peacekeeping missions;

5. *Reiterates* the need to implement, as a matter of priority, an effective inventory management standard, especially in respect of peacekeeping operations involving high inventory value;

#### **Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002**

6. *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 2001 to 30 June 2002;

#### **Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004**

7. *Approves* the cost estimates for the United Nations Logistics Base amounting to 22,208,100 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

#### **Financing of the cost estimates**

8. *Decides* to apply the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 702,800 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

9. *Decides also* that the increase in the estimated staff assessment income of 13,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2002 shall be added to the credits from the amount referred to in paragraph 8 above;

10. *Decides further* to prorate the balance of 21,505,300 dollars among the individual active peacekeeping operation budgets to meet the financing requirements of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

11. *Decides* to set off against the balance referred to in paragraph 10 above the estimated staff assessment income of 1,258,500 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, to be prorated among the individual active peacekeeping operation budgets;

12. *Decides also* to consider during its fifty-eighth session the question of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base.

On 23 December, on the basis of a recommendation by the Secretary-General [A/58/596], supported by ACABQ [A/58/609], the Assembly, by **decision 58/557**, approved the transfer of five additional buildings pledged by Italy to UNLB. (See p. 1500 for further details.)

## **Personnel matters**

### *Mission subsistence allowance*

On 23 December [meeting 79], the General Assembly, having considered the 2001 OIOS report [YUN 2001, p. 104] [A/56/648] on the audit of the establishment and management of mission subsistence allowance rates, adopted, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/58/582], **resolution 58/258** without vote [agenda item 134].

### **Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the establishment and management of mission subsistence allowance rates**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

*Having considered* the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the establishment and management of mission subsistence allowance rates,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the establishment and management of mission subsistence allowance rates;

2. *Reaffirms* its resolution 56/246 of 24 December 2001, in particular paragraph 8;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with the submission of an updated report on the question of mission subsistence allowance rates to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed fifty-eighth session.

### *Death and disability benefits*

At its resumed fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly considered the Secretary-General's annual reports on the processing of death and disability claims in 2001 [YUN 2002, p. 85] and 2002 [A/C.5/57/37], submitted in response to Assembly decision 54/459 B [YUN 2000, p. 113] and ACABQ recommendations [YUN 2001, p. 105]. He indicated that, during 2002, 82 claims were received, bringing the total number of claims available for processing to 160. Of that number, 126 were processed for a total value of \$2,962,236, leaving 34 pending as at 31 December 2002, including 21 for which documentation from troop contributors was lacking. All claims based on the old methodology had been processed. The new methodology was working well and the Claims and Information Management Section had been able to process claims in a timely manner. The Secretary-General suggested that the Assembly might consider whether there was a continuing need for annual reporting outside the framework of the overall claims processing.

ACABQ, in April [A/57/772], recommended that future information on death and disability benefits be included in the overview of the general report on peacekeeping operations.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], adopted **resolution 57/316** without vote [agenda item 126].

**Death and disability benefits**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the notes by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits, as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the notes by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits;

2. *Decides* that, in future, information on death and disability benefits shall be included in the overview of the general report on peacekeeping operations.

**Recruitment policies and procedures**

ACABQ, in April [A/57/772], pointed out that delays and deficiencies continued to plague DPKO recruitment and placement activities. Taking into account the information that upon implementation of the new staff selection system (Galaxy) the targeted time frame for filling vacancies in peacekeeping operations would be reduced from 180 to 95 days, ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly consider establishing a procedure whereby any post that became vacant or any new post that was not filled within 12 months after it became vacant or was approved should be deemed to have lapsed. It encouraged greater use of national staff, whose designation currently included both national professional officers and local staff, wherever feasible and cost-effective. While not objecting to the practice of reassigning national staff from one mission to another, since it could temporarily provide urgently needed skills at short notice, particularly in the start-up phase of new missions, ACABQ cautioned that missions needed to recruit their own staff as quickly as possible. It decided to revert to the matter in the context of its examination of the Secretary-General's report on the future of Field Service officers and to follow up on the review of the Field Service category when considering the peacekeeping budgets in 2004. Noting the considerable underexpenditure for the period 2001/02 in the civilian personnel component of some missions, resulting from the recruitment of international staff below approved grades, ACABQ was of the view that when posts were consistently filled at lower levels in missions with limited duration, the level of the higher graded posts should be reviewed and reclassified accordingly.

In general, ACABQ was of the opinion that missions should have greater authority in the hiring and management of staff. Missions needed to plan and manage more carefully the departure of staff, particularly heads of services, including

the preparation of handing-over notes. There should be more collaboration among missions and between the missions and Headquarters on that issue and on staff mobility between Headquarters and missions.

The Assembly, in **resolution 57/290 B** of 18 June (see p. 83), endorsed ACABQ's observations and recommendations on the recruitment of DPKO personnel.

**Field Service category of staff**

On 18 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly, having considered the 2001 OIOS report [YUN 2001, p. 106] [A/56/202] on the audit of the policies and procedures of DPKO for the recruitment of international civilian staff for field missions, adopted, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/57/656/Add.1], **resolution 57/322** without vote [agenda item 126].

**Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the policies and procedures of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for recruiting international civilian staff for field missions**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

*Having considered* the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the policies and procedures of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for recruiting international civilian staff for field missions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct, through the Office of Internal Oversight Services, a follow-up audit of the policies and procedures for recruiting international civilian staff for field missions, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly for its consideration at its resumed fifty-eighth session.

On 23 December [meeting 79], the Assembly, having considered the 2002 report [YUN 2002, p. 86] [A/57/78] of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of staff in UN peace operations, the Secretary-General's comments thereon [A/57/78/Add.1] and those of ACABQ [A/57/434], adopted, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/58/582], **resolution 58/257** without vote [agenda item 134].

**Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of personnel in United Nations peace operations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of personnel in United Nations peace operations and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon,

*Having also considered* the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of personnel in United Nations peace operations and of the comments of the Secretary-General thereon;

2. *Also takes note* of the related observations and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Approves* recommendations 1 to 6 contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

#### Temporary assignments

In response to General Assembly decision 56/471 [YUN 2002, p. 86], the Secretary-General submitted, in April, a report on assignment of staff in peacekeeping missions [A/57/787]. The report reviewed each category of mission staff eligible for detail or reassignment to, or between, DPKO field missions and outlined the application and selection processes. It also reviewed the related organizational policy and guidelines in the light of relevant administrative instructions and improvements in the Department's internal mechanisms for addressing vacancy and mobility issues in field missions. Since March 2002, vacancy announcements, either generic or specific, had become the normal means of filling vacant posts in field missions; all prospective applicants had access to those announcements through the DPKO web site. Inherent in the wider use of vacancy announcements was a more transparent and competitive process providing enhanced opportunities for career development and mobility of all UN staff, international and locally recruited, in field missions.

To further enhance the integrity of the recruitment and selection process, DPKO had trained all of its mission Placement Officers and Chief Civilian Personnel Officers in competency-based interviewing. In March, it launched the Rapid Deployment Roster to enhance its ability to deploy pre-screened and pre-trained experienced field staff to a new mission within 14 days.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General stated that perhaps the most critical constraint limiting career and mobility of civilian staff in field missions was the recent reduction in the total number of posts in peacekeeping operations. However, the enhanced recruitment, selection and reassignment mechanisms were ensuring that DPKO civilian staff had greater opportunity than at any previous time to pursue and achieve career and mobility goals.

In **decision 57/588** of 18 June, the Assembly deferred until its fifty-eighth session consideration of the Secretary-General's report.

#### UN Volunteers

By **decision 58/564 A** of 23 December, the General Assembly deferred until its resumed

fifty-eighth (2004) session consideration of the Secretary-General's 2001 report [YUN 2001, p. 814] on the participation of United Nations Volunteers in peacekeeping operations.

#### Conduct and discipline

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/57/767] affirmed the need to ensure that all UN peacekeeping personnel functioned in a manner that preserved the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the Organization. The Committee fully supported DPKO's initiatives to prevent misconduct, including the abuse of power and sexual exploitation, and emphasized the need to build greater awareness among UN peacekeepers of their responsibilities, including through improved pre-deployment training; it encouraged the Department to continue to develop training materials to that end.

The Special Committee recommended that common principles and guidelines for accountability be developed and incorporated into the training of UN personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions. It agreed that a single standard of conduct should apply to all peacekeeping personnel and asked the Secretariat, in consultation with troop-contributing countries, to develop a common understanding and agreed procedures for handling cases of alleged violations of the peacekeeping code of conduct. Considering that, in handling such cases, there was the need for agreement on applicable laws, the Committee requested the Secretariat to convene a meeting with Member States in 2003 to discuss ways of meeting the challenges in that area and minimizing misconduct.

The Special Committee emphasized that cases of alleged misconduct should be handled through cooperation between troop-contributing countries concerned and the mission leadership, including with regard to public information, and the need for taking action while respecting national laws. It urged the Secretariat to involve the contributing country concerned from the very outset in an investigation into any case of alleged misconduct, and to make the outcome of the investigation, including all related evidence, available to that country, in order to enable its national judicial authorities to take legal steps.

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## Other peacekeeping matters

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#### Mine action

**Special Committee consideration.** The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

[A/57/767], aware of the important role mine action could play in peacekeeping operations, said that mine action activities should be implemented in such a manner that their viable continuity was guaranteed to the maximum degree possible. It welcomed the ongoing "Study of the role of the military in mine action" being conducted at the request of the United Nations by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and hoped that its results would be useful for troop-contributing countries in conducting mine action tasks in peacekeeping operations. The Committee welcomed the rapid response plan in support of the emergency deployment of mine action assets in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian programmes, and encouraged the coordination of mine action training and mine-risk education material and procedures used by troop-contributing countries and relevant UN agencies.

**Security Council consideration.** On 13 November [meeting 4858], the Security Council considered the importance of mine action for peacekeeping operations. The meeting was addressed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Martin Dahinden, Director of GICHD.

The Under-Secretary-General said that, since the Council last considered the issue [YUN 1996, p. 42], UN mine action had made remarkable progress. The United Nations Mine Action Service within DPKO, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund were the lead actors in undertaking and coordinating mine action initiatives. The Council was going one step further by acknowledging the contribution of mine action to peacekeeping operations and to efforts to maintain international peace and security. The meeting offered an opportunity for the Council to call on a range of actors to undertake specific actions that could greatly enhance mine action in a peacekeeping context. To that end, he raised a number of issues the Council might wish to consider and address. Firstly, although there was a strong normative framework on landmines, an instrument that addressed unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war would greatly facilitate post-conflict clearance efforts. The rights of mine survivors should also be reflected in the proposed international convention on protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities being discussed in the General Assembly (see p. 1107). Secondly, parties to conflict should be aware of the important confidence-building role that mine action could play, and the United Nations could ensure that special representatives of the Secretary-General,

negotiators, moderators and facilitators of peace processes systematically received the United Nations Mine Action Guidelines for Ceasefire and Peace Agreements. The Council could urge parties to conflicts to incorporate mine action into their discussions, whenever relevant. Thirdly, peacekeeping troops could play an important role in mine clearance and, in that regard, the Council should consider calling on troop-contributing countries to train their peacekeeping troops to demine in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards developed by GICHD. Fourthly, peacekeeping missions could collect information on the scope and impact of the landmine and unexploded ordnance problem, and fifthly, mine action could be an important part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

Member States should be encouraged to provide adequate and sustained financial assistance for mine action, thereby alleviating the suffering of populations affected by mines, unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 November [meeting 4864], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2003/22** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the harmful and widespread impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance on civilian populations, especially children, and on humanitarian workers and United Nations staff and, in this regard, stresses the vital importance of eliminating the threat of landmines.

The Council recognizes the long-term consequences of landmines and unexploded ordnance for durable peace, security and development.

The Council welcomes the effective coordination of mine action activities within the United Nations system and the important mandate of the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in particular its role in ensuring the coordination of mine action throughout the United Nations system and the provision of support to multidimensional peacekeeping operations, as well as the role of the United Nations Development Programme in addressing the problem from a development perspective, and providing technical, management and resource mobilization assistance to Governments of mine-affected States, and the role of the United Nations Children's Fund as the lead agency for mine-risk education. The Council also recognizes the significant contribution to mine action made by States, international and regional organizations and local and international non-governmental organizations.

The Council urges all Member States to respect relevant international law that addresses landmines and unexploded ordnance, and the rights of persons

affected by them, stressing the importance of international technical assistance in helping mine-affected States to harmonize their domestic laws with international obligations.

The Council urges all parties to armed conflicts to abide by their mine-related commitments, to cooperate to the fullest extent possible, with mine-risk education and mine-clearing activities, and to ensure that abandoned stockpiles are adequately guarded or destroyed.

The Council encourages Governments whose countries are affected by the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance to include a mine action impact assessment in all development planning and to incorporate a strategic plan for mine action in the national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

The Council recognizes that mine action can play an important role in peace-building and confidence-building in post-conflict situations, and encourages mine-affected States to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, relevant non-governmental organizations and civil society, where appropriate.

The Council calls upon the Secretary-General to provide information on the scope and humanitarian impact of the mine and unexploded ordnance problem in all relevant country-specific reports to the Council, and expresses its readiness to consider mine action concerns in all of its country-specific deliberations, as appropriate.

The Council notes the importance of ensuring that the provision of technical advice and support for mine action is reflected in the mandates and personnel planning for peacekeeping operations, and expresses its intention to address mine action concerns in the mandates and personnel planning for peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate.

The Council recognizes the contribution that peacekeeping personnel can make in the areas of mine-risk education and demining, and calls upon troop-contributing countries, where appropriate, to train selected personnel to demine in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards.

The Council recognizes the important role mine action can play in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts by employing former soldiers in mine action programmes and encourages the Secretary-General to consider including mine action in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiatives and to reflect such proposals in his reports to the Council, as appropriate.

The Council urges Member States, as appropriate, to provide adequate and sustained financial assistance to support mine action and alleviate the suffering of populations affected by mines and unexploded ordnance, and, whenever possible, to increase their support through further contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. The Council calls particular attention to the need to address the socio-economic, physical and psychosocial reintegration of landmine survivors, the need to facilitate the orderly return of refugees

and internally displaced persons affected by mines and unexploded ordnance, the need to restore land to productive use, and the need to prioritize mine action efforts to enable the risk-free movement of people and goods.

The Council considers that a comprehensive and coordinated approach by Member States, the United Nations and regional and local organizations is required to address the threat and the impact of mines and unexploded ordnance.

To this end, the Council supports the general review made by the General Assembly on this matter since 1993, and invites the Secretary-General to address this subject, as needed, in his reports on the general activities of peacekeeping operations.

#### **Cooperation with regional organizations**

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/57/767] urged the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security. It appreciated the possibility of the practical realization of such cooperation at the regional and subregional levels and encouraged the Secretary-General to take concrete steps towards that end. In that regard, the Committee noted the successful cooperation between the United Nations and a number of subregional arrangements and agencies.

With regard to Africa, the Special Committee welcomed DPKO efforts to work closely with all relevant actors in the continent at the regional, subregional and national levels, in particular for the enhancement of the capabilities of African troop contributors and in capacity-building for regional and subregional organizations. The Committee also welcomed a close relationship among the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations, and encouraged those organizations, in close consultation with donors, to discuss the modalities for a suitable focal point or clearing house for activities aimed at strengthening African peacekeeping capacity.

The Committee recommended that the Secretariat study the best cases of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations within the context of peacekeeping in order to identify adequate modalities of cooperation and to report the results to the Committee. It also encouraged further use of existing models of cooperation, such as that between the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.