

Chapter I

International peace and security

In 2005, the United Nations celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in an international environment, which continued to face interconnected threats to peace and security stemming from war and conflict, civil violence, international organized crime, terrorism and arms proliferation, including weapons of mass destruction, persistent poverty, deadly infectious diseases and environmental degradation. In September, at the 2005 World Summit, a High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to mark that milestone, world leaders articulated the need for a new security consensus that would address those threats preventively, including a new global strategy for preventing catastrophic terrorism from ever becoming a reality. They also approved the Secretary-General's proposal for the creation of an intergovernmental Peacebuilding Commission and a Peacebuilding Support Office to strengthen the management of UN peace operations worldwide, which he had articulated in his report to the Summit, entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all".

The Security Council, which also met in September at the level of Heads of State and Government to discuss threats to international peace and security, adopted additional measures for Member States to reinforce ongoing efforts to prevent terrorism. To help countries break the cycle of relapsing into conflict, the Council adopted a declaration on strengthening its effectiveness in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. The Council also addressed the role that civil society could play and stressed the need for a broad strategy of conflict prevention that addressed the root causes of armed conflict and political and social crises comprehensively. Conscious of the invaluable contribution of regional organizations to UN peace efforts, the Council held a High-level meeting with regional organizations in October and expressed its determination to further develop cooperation between the United Nations and those organizations in the maintenance of peace and security.

Throughout the year, the United Nations worked tirelessly to prevent and resolve conflicts and to consolidate peace. Those efforts resulted in the successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Sierra Leone and Timor Leste,

support for the organization of elections in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti and Liberia, and facilitated complex political transition processes in those countries, and in Afghanistan.

The year 2005 was particularly devastating with regard to international terrorism, having witnessed an increase in tragic terrorist attacks worldwide, including in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon and London. In a series of statements, the Council condemned those acts and called for the prosecution of the perpetrators. The General Assembly, in the outcome document of its 2005 World Summit, welcomed the identification by the Secretary-General of elements for a counter-terrorism strategy, and in April, adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

During the year, the United Nations continued to strengthen its peacekeeping capacity worldwide. In June, the Assembly considered and took action on a number of cross-cutting issues related to the administrative and budgetary aspects of UN peacekeeping operations, including a request to the Office of Internal Oversight Services to review the practices and management structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Council and the Assembly also confronted the issue of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers, with the Assembly endorsing the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General's Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel, entitled "A comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations".

The Organization maintained 12 political and peacebuilding missions and 18 peacekeeping operations. At the end of 2005, some 85,000 military and civilian personnel were serving under UN command, compared to 64,701 the previous year.

The financial position of UN peacekeeping operations continued to improve during the year, as expenditures increased to \$4,074.3 million, compared to \$2,933.8 million in 2004, a 39 per cent increase, mostly attributable to expanded operations in the DRC and the full-year impact of four other missions. Unpaid assessed contribu-

tions amounted to \$1.7 billion, compared to \$1.5 billion the previous year.

Promotion of international peace and security

A new concept of collective security

In his 21 March report entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all” [A/59/2005 & Add.1], submitted to the 2005 World Summit (see p. 48), the Secretary-General endorsed the broad vision of the role of the United Nations in providing collective security and the case for a more comprehensive concept of such collective action, as articulated in the 2004 report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change [YUN 2004, p. 54]. He said that threats to peace and security in the twenty-first century included not just international war and conflict, but civil violence, organized crime, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, poverty, deadly infectious disease and environmental degradation. In a globalized world, the threats were interconnected, and as such, a new security consensus had to be found to address them all preventively, acting at a sufficiently early stage with the full range of available instruments. An essential part of the new consensus had to be agreement on when and how much force could be used to defend international peace and security, particularly the right to use it preemptively against imminent threats, and preventively against latent or non-imminent threats. He recommended that the Security Council adopt a resolution setting out the principles for using force and expressing its intention to be guided by them when deciding to authorize or mandate such use. The Secretary-General said that the time had come to transform the United Nations into the effective instrument for preventing conflict that it was meant to be, by acting on several key policy and institutional priorities. In that context, a new global strategy was needed to avert catastrophic terrorism. The multilateral frameworks for handling threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons should be revitalized to ensure continued progress on disarmament and to address the growing risk of a cascade of proliferation, especially in the nuclear field, and efforts should be continued to reduce the prevalence and risk of war. The Secretary-General appealed to Member States to do more to ensure that the United Nations had effective capacities for peacekeeping, commensurate with the de-

mands placed upon it. Noting that the time was ripe for an interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities to enable the Organization to work with relevant regional organizations, he proposed the creation of an intergovernmental Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Support Office (see p. 93).

The World Summit, in its outcome document (**resolution 60/1** of 16 September) (see p. 48), decided to establish the Peacebuilding Commission and endorsed the creation of an initial operating capability for a standing police capacity for the policing component of UN peacekeeping operations.

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 12 July [meeting 5225], the Security Council held a debate on the role of the Council in humanitarian crises: challenges, lessons learned, and the way ahead. Greece, in an explanatory non-paper of 6 July [S/2005/434], said that the debate was to focus on recent Council efforts to break the cycle of conflict affecting societies and to prevent them from relapsing into such crises. Attention was to be placed particularly on the three key pillars of post-conflict security: the promotion of the rule of law; security sector reform; and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

In opening the debate, the Council President noted that the early prevention of humanitarian crises had become a political and moral imperative for the Council, and that the United Nations should strengthen its capacity to move from reaction to prevention of crises before they reached critical mass. While the responsibility for the protection of civilian populations rested primarily with States concerned, in cases of extreme violations and atrocities, the international community had an obligation to the victims of such violence. The United Nations, particularly the Council, had to take effective action to alleviate the suffering of civilians and to avert the occurrence of humanitarian disasters.

The Secretary-General, in his statement to the Council, observed that Member States needed to take early action in a crisis situation to prevent human suffering and said it was important to prevent future conflicts by addressing their root causes. He also addressed the problems of providing security and justice in post-conflict situations, based on the rule of law, which he said could not be imposed from outside. Local actors had to understand that only confidence in the rule of law would ensure lasting security, by enabling different factions or communities to rely on the forces of the State, rather than on factional militias for protection. The role of the interna-

tional community was to galvanize and provide technical assistance to that process, while making sure all national actors were included in it. Different parts of the UN system, including international financial institutions, needed to cooperate closely with each other, bilateral donors and troop contributors. Ensuring such coordination was one of the roles he hoped to see fulfilled by the new Peacebuilding Commission.

In his address, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, while also reflecting on post-conflict situations, stressed that, if peace were to be lasting, the short-, medium- and long-term security and justice needs of both the State and its population had to be addressed equally. UN efforts in the security and justice sectors tended to be driven by peace agreements, which addressed those issues in the context of ending a conflict. While being an important element, it did not lay a strong basis for the consolidation of State and human security in the post-conflict setting. Insufficient attention was given to a comprehensive national security review process that identified threats to State and human security and the development of a security architecture that was responsive to those threats. As a result, both the international community and host countries were ill-prepared to tackle critical challenges, such as corruption, cross-border narcotics and arms, and human trafficking. Peace agreement-driven approaches had, in some instances, even led the international community to support the reform of State institutions that had lost their legitimacy in the eyes of the population. It was, therefore, not surprising that those same countries had a high propensity for relapsing into conflict.

Furthermore, international efforts related to the security and justice sectors were often disjointed, leading to uneven or duplicative assistance, and within the United Nations, there was no single system-wide approach to those issues. International approaches in support of security sector reform in post-conflict countries mostly applied foreign models and standards that were often politically unpalatable, unsuitable or unrealistic in the light of the realities of the situation.

To address those challenges, the international community should reconsider whether it was always realistic to seek to rebuild, reform or restructure a country's defence, police, courts and penal system while simultaneously seeking to re-establish security, keep the political process on track, facilitate the return of displaced populations, conduct elections and restore basic services.

In some cases, it might be appropriate to start early on complex tasks, such as rebuilding courts

and training police, while in others, the sequence of activities might need to be re-examined to enable the peacekeeping operation to focus on stabilization while a proper assessment of threats and needs was conducted and appropriate international, regional and local partners were identified to rebuild the security infrastructure and institutions. Those questions needed to be thought through carefully to ensure that efforts and resources were spent on viable processes and institutions that could be sustained beyond the brief lifespan of a peacekeeping operation.

For the UN system, another key to better delivery was to continue to strive to carry out its mandates in as integrated a manner as possible, including with development partners at the initial stages of planning for peacekeeping operations, to ensure that joint efforts were guided by a coherent, long-term strategy, and allowed for smooth handovers to national and development partners once the peacekeeping mandate was over. At the same time, there should be greater integration of capacities within the UN system, with assignment of clear responsibility for specific activities; the development of repositories of best practices, including diverse models of reforming the security sector; and effective coordination of United Nations, bilateral and other efforts.

There should also be a differentiation between areas where the UN system had, or should further develop, its capacity to carry out operational tasks and deliver programmes, and other areas where it could most usefully engage knowledgeably with host countries and bilateral and multilateral partners that had the requisite experience or capacity. As such, the UN's role should be to advocate for assistance and to ensure that what was promised and delivered responded to the actual needs of the host country. One key area that deserved examination was defence reform, where the United Nations currently had limited capacity.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 July [meeting 5225], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/30** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and bears in mind its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council remains deeply concerned by the devastating humanitarian, political and economic consequences of armed conflicts and stresses the overriding political and moral imperatives to prevent the outbreak and escalation of armed conflicts

and humanitarian crises, and the benefits therein for peace and development and friendly relations among all States.

The Council acknowledges the importance of helping to prevent future conflicts through addressing their root causes in a legitimate and fair manner.

The Council reiterates the importance it attaches to the promotion and urgent restoration of justice and the rule of law in post-conflict societies and in promoting national reconciliation, democratic development, and human rights. The Council recognizes that ending impunity is important in peace agreements and can contribute to efforts to come to terms with past abuses and to achieve national reconciliation to prevent future conflict. The Council recalls that it has repeatedly emphasized the responsibility of States to end impunity and bring to justice those responsible for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The Council further recognizes the increasing importance of civilian aspects of conflict management in addressing complex crisis situations and in preventing the recurrence of conflict and acknowledges the importance of civilian-military cooperation in crisis management. When approving a United Nations operation, the Council should take into account the essential role of military and civilian police in assisting the stabilization of crisis situations and the maintenance of security. At the same time, the Council acknowledges that the special representative of the Secretary-General, assisted by civilian advisers, could play a key coordination role in the provision of humanitarian assistance, the re-establishment of public order, the functioning of public institutions, as well as rehabilitation, reconstruction and peacebuilding, which lead to long-term sustainable development.

The Council stresses the need to ensure adequate and timely financing for peacebuilding priorities at all stages of the peace process and stresses the need for sustained financial investment in peacebuilding over the medium to longer-term period of recovery. It recognizes the importance of rapid initiation of peacebuilding activities to meet immediate needs and encourages the building of capabilities that can be incorporated rapidly.

The Council takes note with interest of the important proposal by the Secretary-General to establish a peacebuilding commission and shares the objective of improving United Nations capacity to coordinate with donors and troop contributors and to perform peacebuilding activities, in particular from the start of peacekeeping operations through stabilization, reconstruction and development. The Council recognizes the important role that this body could play to bridge the gap between maintenance of international peace and security and the work of humanitarian and economic development assistance.

The Council acknowledges that in post-conflict societies, successful peacebuilding rests on the premise that protection of civilians, the promotion of the rule of law and transitional justice, disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of former combatants, security sector and democratic, economic and social reform

are integrated elements and that national ownership plays an important role which should be supported by the international community, including the regional organizations.

The Council emphasizes that security sector reform is an essential element of any stabilization process in post-conflict environments, underlines the fact that it is inextricably linked with promotion of the rule of law, transitional justice, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the protection of civilians, among others, and acknowledges the need for more adequate preparation, including mobilization of necessary planning resources, and more coherent approaches by the United Nations and the international community in addressing these issues.

The Council acknowledges the need to give adequate attention to security sector reform in the future, drawing on best practices that have been developed in this area. The Council also stresses the need seriously to consider the promotion of the rule of law and transitional justice, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and security sector reform, their interlinkage and the availability of adequate resources, when approving the necessary mandates for United Nations operations.

Conflict prevention

Prevention of armed conflict

On 14 September [meeting 5261], the Security Council met at the level of Heads of State and Government to discuss threats to international peace and security, particularly international terrorism and the prevention of armed conflict, especially in Africa.

The Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1625(2005)**. The draft [S/2005/578] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

The Security Council,

Decides to adopt the attached declaration on strengthening the effectiveness of the role of the Security Council in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa.

Annex

The Security Council,

Meeting on 14 September 2005 at the level of Heads of State and Government to discuss how to strengthen the effectiveness of the role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflict, particularly in Africa,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Deeply concerned by the high human cost and material losses caused by armed conflicts and recognizing that peace, security and development are mutually reinforcing, including in the prevention of armed conflict,

Reaffirming the importance of adhering to the principles of refraining, in international relations, from the threat or the use of force in any manner inconsis-

tent with the purposes of the United Nations, and of peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Reaffirming also the need to adopt a broad strategy of conflict prevention which addresses the root causes of armed conflict and political and social crises in a comprehensive manner, including by promoting sustainable development, poverty eradication, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, gender equality, the rule of law and respect for and protection of human rights,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the important role of the United Nations in the prevention of violent conflicts, and to develop effective partnerships between the Council and regional organizations, in particular the African Union and its subregional organizations, in order to enable early responses to disputes and emerging crises,

Recalling the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact adopted in Abuja on 31 January 2005, as well as the African Union position on unconstitutional changes of governments, as stated in the 1999 Algiers Decision and the 2000 Lomé Declaration,

Recognizing the important supporting roles played by civil society, men and women, in conflict prevention, and the need to take into account all possible contributions from civil society,

1. *Expresses its determination* to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in preventing armed conflicts and to monitor closely situations of potential armed conflict;

2. *Affirms its determination* to strengthen United Nations conflict prevention capacities by:

(a) Assessing regularly the developments in regions at risk of armed conflict and encouraging the Secretary-General to provide information to the Security Council on such developments pursuant to Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Promoting the follow-up of preventive diplomacy initiatives of the Secretary-General;

(c) Supporting regional mediation initiatives in close consultation with regional and subregional organizations concerned;

(d) Supporting regional and subregional capacities for early warning to help them in working out appropriate mechanisms to enable prompt action in reaction to early warning indicators;

(e) Requesting as necessary and appropriate information and assistance from the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Article 65 of the Charter;

(f) Taking measures to contribute to combating the illicit trade in arms in all its aspects and the use of mercenaries;

(g) Helping to enhance durable institutions conducive to peace, stability and sustainable development;

(h) Supporting efforts of African States to build independent and reliable national judicial institutions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide to the Security Council regular reports and analysis of developments in regions of potential armed conflicts, particularly in Africa, and, as appropriate, a presentation of ongoing preventive diplomacy initiatives;

(b) To assist countries at risk of armed conflict in performing strategic conflict risk assessments, in implementing the measures agreed to by the concerned countries, in enhancing national dispute management capacities, and in addressing the root causes of armed conflict;

(c) To promote coordination with regional conflict management machinery in Africa which would provide the Council with additional reliable and timely information to facilitate rapid decision-making;

4. *Stresses* the importance of establishing effective comprehensive strategies of conflict prevention, focused on averting negative developments in the security, economic, social and humanitarian sectors and in the field of governance and human rights in countries which are facing crises, with special attention to:

(a) Developing quick-win activities to prevent conflicts arising from competition for economic resources and to monitoring tension arising from economic and social issues;

(b) Encouraging United Nations regional offices to facilitate the implementation of strategies aimed at curbing illicit cross-border activities;

(c) Strengthening the capacities of civil society groups, including women's groups, working to promote a culture of peace, and to mobilize donors to support these efforts;

(d) Developing policy measures to foster good governance and the protection of human rights in order to strengthen weakened or collapsed governance mechanisms and to end the culture of impunity;

(e) Promoting the fairness and transparency of electoral processes;

5. *Stresses also* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, particularly to programmes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as the effective and sustainable reintegration of ex-combatants;

6. *Reaffirms its determination* to take action against illegal exploitation of and trafficking in natural resources and high-value commodities in areas where it contributes to the outbreak, escalation or continuation of armed conflict;

7. *Calls for* the strengthening of cooperation and communication between the United Nations and regional or subregional organizations or arrangements, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, particularly with respect to mediation initiatives;

8. *Encourages* all African States to adhere to the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact adopted in Abuja on 31 January 2005, and to sign, where appropriate, subregional pacts on peace, security, democracy, good governance and development, and calls upon the United Nations system and the international community to support the implementation of the pacts;

9. *Encourages* African countries to continue to work closely with the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations regional offices in the implementation of measures aimed at securing peace, security, stability, democracy and sustainable development consistent with the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

10. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system and International Financial

Institutions to support African countries in their efforts to achieve the above objectives, and in this respect welcomes the decisions taken at the summit of the Group of Eight, held in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 6 to 8 July 2005, for combating poverty in Africa;

11. *Urges* all African States and the international community to cooperate fully in developing the capacities of African regional and subregional organizations to deploy both civilian and military assets quickly when needed, including the development of the African Union's African Standby Force, welcomes bilateral and multilateral programmes developed to this end, and expresses its support for the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union;

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

By **decision 59/568** of 12 September, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the item "Prevention of armed conflict", and included it in the agenda of its sixtieth (2005) session.

Role of civil society in conflict prevention and pacific settlement of disputes

The Security Council, on 20 September [meeting 5264], discussed the role of civil society in conflict prevention and the pacific settlement of disputes. In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, the Executive Director of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Chair of the Columbia University Seminar on Conflict Resolution and faculty coordinator of the Columbia University Conflict Resolution Network, and the Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes were invited to attend the meeting.

The Philippines, in a 7 September letter to the Secretary-General [S/2005/594], said that non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, local authorities and the private sector could contribute to the promotion and implementation of development, security and human rights programmes, and it was important that they be engaged with Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations in those key areas. Coordination with civil society organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes was beneficial and necessary, given their strength as neutral actors whose knowledge, abilities, experience, links with key constituencies, influence and resources contributed greatly to creating confidence among parties concerned.

Specific civil society sectors that could be tapped to assist parties in the search for peaceful solution to disputes, tensions and frictions included the academe, NGOs dedicated to conflict prevention, and the religious sector. The Council therefore needed to address: ways to harness the

actual and potential contributions of non-governmental and civil society organizations in developing a strategy for comprehensive conflict prevention and the pacific settlement of disputes in line with Chapter VI of the UN Charter; how it could collaborate with those organizations in overall conflict prevention strategies and in the various stages of dispute settlement; how it could mobilize them to play a more active role in pursuit of "other peaceful means" to settle disputes, such as informal dialogues and contacts between and among parties to disputes; and, in addition to existing mechanisms as the Arria formula (Security Council informal consultative arrangement), what cooperative framework could be fostered in order for the Council and those organizations to have a smooth working relationship to safeguard international peace and security.

The Secretary-General, in his statement to the Council, delivered on his behalf by Assistant Secretary-General, Tuliameni Kalomoh, of the Department of Political Affairs, said that civil society's role in conflict prevention needed to be fully recognized, and both the United Nations and regional organizations had to do more to tap into the comparative advantages of that role. Local ownership and participation were essential for the success of peace processes, and civil society was often far out in front in identifying new threats and concerns. That was certainly one of its most important roles. Civil society organizations were also indispensable in "track-two" and "people-to-people" diplomacy, which was often integral to successful official diplomacy and post-conflict political and reconciliation processes. At times, they could reach parties on the ground that Governments or the United Nations could not and they could also complement the work of the United Nations by: offering valuable analyses originating in the field, forging partnerships to implement UN decisions, increasing the sustainability of UN operations and creating networks to advocate for peacebuilding. For those reasons, civil society organizations would have an important role to play in the deliberations of the Peacebuilding Commission.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 September [meeting 5264], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/42** on behalf of the Council:

Recognizing the complex nature of threats to international peace and security, the Security Council underlined the need for a broad strategy for conflict prevention and pacific settlement of disputes in line with Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council stressed that the essential responsibility for conflict prevention rests with national governments, and that the United Nations and the international community can play an important role in support of national efforts for conflict prevention and can assist in building national capacity in this field, and recognized the important supporting role of civil society.

The Council reaffirmed the need for this strategy to be based on engagement with governments, regional and subregional organizations as well as civil society organizations, as appropriate, reflecting the widest possible range of opinions.

The Council underlined the potential contributions of a vibrant and diverse civil society in conflict prevention, as well as in the peaceful settlement of disputes. It noted that a well-functioning civil society has the advantage of specialized knowledge, capabilities, experience, links with key constituencies, influence and resources, which can assist parties in conflict to achieve a peaceful solution to disputes.

The Council noted that a vigorous and inclusive civil society could provide community leadership, help shape public opinion, and facilitate as well as contribute to reconciliation between conflicting communities. The Council also underscored the role that these actors could play in providing a bridge to dialogue and other confidence-building measures between parties in conflict.

The Council underscored and will strengthen its relationship with civil society, including as appropriate, through, inter alia, the use of "Arria-formula" meetings and meetings with local civil society organizations during Council missions.

The Council agreed to keep this item under review.

Conflict diamonds

Kimberley Process. At its 2005 regular session, the Plenary Meeting of the Kimberley Process (Moscow, Russian Federation, 15-17 November) reviewed the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), established in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 55] to stop the use of conflict diamonds in fuelling armed conflict, protect the legitimate diamond industry and ensure implementation of resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds.

The Plenary was informed that, in 2005, Indonesia was included in the list of Kimberley Process participants and Lebanon rejoined KPCS. It noted with concern evidence of ongoing illicit production of diamonds in the Northern rebel-controlled regions of Côte d'Ivoire and adopted a resolution outlining measures to prevent the introduction of conflict diamonds from that country into the legitimate trade. It also agreed to conduct a detailed assessment, with the United Nations and other participants, to identify where diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire were entering into the trade.

The Plenary noted the progress made in implementing the KPCS peer review process. At the time of the meeting, 19 Participants had received review visits and six more were expected to receive such visits by the end of the year. Having received the report of the Working Group on Statistics on aspects of national methodologies that constrained statistical reporting, the Plenary decided that Participants should use Kimberley Process Certificate-based data when submitting trade data, thereby improving the comparability of statistics provided by them. The Working Group was to study the issue of public release of statistical information and report in 2006.

The Plenary adopted a declaration setting out recommendations for effective internal controls over alluvial diamond mining, in order to improve the traceability of alluvial production and to further the effective implementation of KPCS. It agreed to renew the mandate of the ad hoc subgroup on alluvial production, which was to report at intervals on the progress achieved towards implementing those recommendations. The Plenary also adopted terms of reference for the review of KPCS to be carried out by the ad hoc Working Group on the Review of KPCS, and mandated it to report in 2006.

Botswana and the European Community were elected Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Kimberley Process for 2006.

The report of the Plenary meeting was transmitted to the General Assembly President, in December [A/60/589 & Corr.1], by the Russian Federation, in its capacity as Chair of the Kimberley Process, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/144 [YUN 2004, p. 995].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 60/182** [draft: A/60/L.42 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 11].

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

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds 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 continued 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 continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of many of the producing, exporting and importing States, especially developing States,

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

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

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

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

Believing that the implementation 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 its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004 and 59/144 of 15 December 2004, in which it called for the development and implementation of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way that it does not impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, and does not hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Welcoming also the decision of countries and one regional economic integration organization to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Kimberley Process and to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

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

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 that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all participants have 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,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for 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 the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds that play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Also recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, have made to the settlement of conflicts in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the ongoing value of the Certification Scheme as a mechanism for the prevention of future conflicts;

4. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential and should be encouraged, and urges all Member States to participate actively in the Certification Scheme by complying with its undertakings;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to resolution 59/144, and congratulates the Governments, regional economic integration organization representatives, the organized diamond industry and civil society participating in the Kimberley Process for contributing to the development and implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

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

7. *Welcomes* the adoption by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, held in Moscow from 15 to 17 November 2005, of a resolution on the subject of illicit diamond production in Côte d'Ivoire that outlines a series of measures to prevent the introduction of conflict diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire into legitimate trade, including a detailed assessment of the volume of rough diamonds produced in and exported from Côte d'Ivoire, to be carried out in cooperation with the United Nations, and encourages cooperation between the Kimberley Process and the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire;

8. *Also welcomes* the adoption by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process of a declaration on improving internal controls over alluvial diamond production, which sets out recommendations for effective internal controls over alluvial diamond mining and encourages potential donors to provide capacity-building assistance to further the effective implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Kimberley Process and of its Chair to the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521(2003) concerning Liberia, including the submission of a report on the results of the Kimberley Process expert mission to Liberia;

10. *Welcomes* the agreement reached at the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process on terms of reference for the three-year review of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

11. *Also welcomes* the important progress made in the implementation of the peer review mechanism in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and encourages all remaining participants to receive voluntary review visits;

12. *Further welcomes* the progress made towards the collection and submission of statistical reports on the production and trade in rough diamonds, and encourages all the Kimberley Process participants to enhance the quality of data, with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

13. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that the Russian Federation, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2005, has made to the efforts to curb the trade in conflict diamonds, and welcomes the succession of Botswana as Chair and the European Community as Vice-Chair of the Process for 2006;

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

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled “the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict”.

Implementation of 1970 Declaration

The General Assembly, by **decision 60/520** of 8 December, included in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second (2007) session the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security” [YUN 1970, p. 105].

Peacemaking and peacebuilding

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 26 May [meeting 5187], the Security Council discussed the issue of post-conflict peacebuilding. It had before it a 16 May [S/2005/316] discussion paper submitted by Denmark, which urged the Council to discuss the current policy, institutional and financial challenges in post-

conflict peacebuilding, with a view to strengthening coherence and consistency of Council action, while keeping in mind that it was only one of several players in the field.

Denmark, in opening the debate, noted that, although the United Nations had made progress in strengthening its coherence in post-conflict situations, significant challenges remained in the policy, institutional and financial fields. Regarding policy, the Organization needed to ensure local ownership of the process of devising and implementing post-conflict peacebuilding strategies, so as to make them sustainable, with participatory dialogues between the United Nations and local stakeholders, to highlight the fact that the country in question and its people carried the main responsibility for their future. As the regional perspective was often underestimated in addressing a particular conflict, comprehensive strategies were needed that addressed the specifics of the conflict and its regional dimensions, as well as cross-cutting issues such as small arms; demobilization, disarmament and the reintegration (DDR) of former combatants; the protection of women and children; and the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons.

In West Africa, where soldiers of fortune, mercenaries and sanctions-busters were taking their deadly business from one theatre of conflict to the next, the United Nations should focus more on tackling cross-border issues by, among other ways, aiming for a comprehensive subregional DDR strategy.

Regional organizations in different parts of the world, especially the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), were taking on greater responsibilities in peacebuilding, and it was important to involve and support them in taking a leadership role.

Most post-conflict situations had a “rule-of-law vacuum” and the United Nations had to be able to more effectively help fill that vacuum, by helping to build national judicial institutions, strengthening governance and ensuring transitional justice for crimes committed during conflicts. Denmark said that it would welcome thoughts on creating a focal point for the rule of law.

At the institutional level, it stressed that all relevant actors should be involved to ensure systematic contributions from UN development and humanitarian agencies in the integrated mission planning process for post-conflict situations. Accordingly, a system of recording and disseminating best practices should be devised.

Overall, the United Nations needed to develop peacebuilding strategies that aimed for local ownership and regional engagement, which were

coordinated between all actors in the field and at Headquarters, made efficient use of the available resources within and outside the United Nations and ensured sufficient financial means and long-term donor commitment.

The Deputy Secretary-General, in his statement, said that strategies for ending war should also tackle the question of relapse, ensure that peace agreements were implemented in a sustainable manner and that critical stabilization activities, such as the reintegration and rehabilitation of demobilized combatants, were adequately financed and carefully implemented. The United Nations should help societies and markets recover their vitality and strengthen the capacity of State and social institutions to provide security and justice based on the rule of law.

To improve the peacebuilding success rate, four things were vital: building on existing national institutions and capacities, both of the State and of civil society; ensuring that the UN system, especially its operations on the ground, and its principal organs, functioned in a coherent fashion; involving international financial institutions, bilateral donors and regional actors in UN peacebuilding efforts; and providing more resources for both immediate needs and medium-term recovery.

Recalling that the Secretary-General had proposed the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission and a Peacebuilding Support Office (see p. 93) to help meet those needs, the Deputy Secretary-General emphasized that the Commission would bring together international financial institutions, bilateral donors and regional actors, and harmonize peacebuilding activity across the multilateral system.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 May [meeting 5113], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/20** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and recalls its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council considers post-conflict peacebuilding closely linked to its primary responsibilities.

The Council recognizes that intra-State conflicts and States emerging from conflict are among the most complex challenges facing the international community and that responding to these challenges in most instances requires a coherent and integrated mix of peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities, including political, military, civilian, humanitarian and development activities.

The Council acknowledges that serious attention to the longer-term process of peacebuilding in all its

multiple dimensions is critically important and that adequate support for peacebuilding activities can help to prevent countries from relapsing into conflict.

The Council underlines the fact that priorities in the post-conflict environment should include, where appropriate: protection of civilians; disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of former combatants; security sector and economic and social reform; the end of impunity; establishment and re-establishment of the institutions of Government, the rule of law and transitional justice, respect for human rights; and economic revitalization.

The Council recognizes the key role played by the United Nations, including the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in peacebuilding alongside the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, bilateral donors and troop contributors. It also acknowledges the role the private sector can play in countries emerging from conflict. The Council underlines the fact that a successful outcome of post-conflict peacebuilding activities depends on the sustained commitment of all relevant actors to the process, through the involvement of these actors and the coordination of their activities in all phases from planning through implementation. In this regard, the Council also stresses the importance of pursuing coherent policies and resource allocation between these United Nations entities taking into account their respective mandates. The Council recalls the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and the recommendations therein, and welcomes the progress made since the publication of the report, not least as regards planning of peacekeeping operations.

The Council underlines the fact that for countries emerging from conflict, significant international assistance for economic and social rehabilitation and reconstruction is indispensable. In this regard, the Council acknowledges the role the Economic and Social Council plays, including in sustainable development, and reiterates its willingness to improve cooperation with United Nations bodies and organs directly concerned with peacebuilding.

The Council underlines the importance of national ownership of the transition process from the end of a conflict to the attainment of lasting peace and sustainable development and the need for the international community to support nationally owned peacebuilding priorities. The Council recognizes the positive role played by local stakeholders and encourages dialogue between the United Nations and relevant national actors. The Council encourages capacity-building in order to respond to the country-specific circumstances of each conflict situation. One goal of this capacity-building—and of peacebuilding generally—should be to promote the establishment of self-supporting national authorities and thus the evolution of international assistance from peace support to longer-term development.

The Council recognizes the crucial role of regional and subregional organizations in post-conflict peacebuilding and their involvement at the earliest possible stage. The Council realizes that a

clear regional perspective is necessary as most conflicts have interlocking political, security, humanitarian and economic dynamics across borders. The Council underscores in this respect the need for enhanced cooperation and, where appropriate, coordination between United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in peacebuilding, based on a more integrated approach and with the aim of maximizing use of available resources and capabilities.

The Council stresses the importance of a comprehensive international and regional approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants that is not limited to the political and security aspects, but also addresses its social and economic aspects, including special needs of child soldiers and women.

The Council stresses the special needs of Africa in post-conflict situations and encourages the international community to pay particular attention to those needs. It welcomes the ever-closer partnership between the African Union, the African subregional organizations and the United Nations in the area of peacemaking and peacekeeping and stresses the importance of extending this partnership to peacebuilding efforts.

The Council underscores the importance of cooperation between United Nations peacekeeping operations and the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. The Council stresses the importance of ensuring that planning and implementation of United Nations humanitarian, peacekeeping, political and developmental activities at country level are well coordinated system-wide, including through the development of shared strategic objectives. The Council stresses that the United Nations should function as one integrated entity at country level under effective overall leadership in post-conflict peacebuilding.

The Council stresses the need to ensure adequate and timely financing for peacebuilding priorities at all stages of the peace process and stresses the need for sustained financial investment in peacebuilding over the medium to longer-term period of recovery. It recognizes the importance of rapid initiation of peacebuilding activities to meet immediate needs and encourages the building of capabilities that can be incorporated rapidly.

The Council welcomes the submission of the report of the Secretary-General of 21 March 2005 entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" and of the report by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change entitled "A more secure world: our shared responsibility". The Council acknowledges institutional gaps, identified in the reports, in the United Nations institutional machinery with respect to effectively, coherently and comprehensively helping countries with the transition from conflict to lasting peace and sustainable development.

The Council takes note with interest of the important proposal by the Secretary-General to establish a peacebuilding commission and shares the objective of improving United Nations capacity to coordinate with donors and troop contributors and to perform peacebuilding activities, in particular from the start

of peacekeeping operations through stabilization, reconstruction and development. The Council recognizes the important role that this body could play to bridge the gap between maintenance of international peace and security and the work of humanitarian and economic development assistance.

Establishment of Peacebuilding Commission

In May [A/59/2005/Add.2], the Secretary-General set out the modalities for the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, which he had proposed in the main part of his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (see p. 67). He stated that the proposed Commission would provide a central node for helping to create and promote comprehensive peacebuilding strategies. It should also encourage coherent decision-making on peacebuilding by Member States and the UN Secretariat, agencies and programmes, and provide a forum in which UN system representatives, major bilateral donors, troop contributors, relevant actors and organizations, international financial institutions and the national or transitional authorities of the country concerned could share information about post-conflict recovery.

The Commission should provide information to the Security Council and focus attention on development and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery; help ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities, partly by providing an overview of assessed, voluntary and standing funding mechanisms; periodically review progress towards medium-term recovery goals; ensure sustained financing of recovery and development activities and extend the period of political attention to post-conflict recovery; strengthen UN preventive efforts by providing better tools for helping States and societies reduce the risk of conflict; develop best practice on cross-cutting peacebuilding issues; and improve the coordination of UN funds, programmes and agencies.

To support the Commission's work, a Peacebuilding Support Office would be established to prepare the substantive inputs for Commission meetings; provide high-quality inputs to the planning process for peacebuilding operations, working with lead departments, UN field presences and others; and conduct best practices analysis and develop policy guidance. A Standing Fund for Peacebuilding would also be established, possibly on a voluntary, replenishable basis, to provide critical targeted support to nascent authorities and to early peacebuilding activities. In terms of the institutional structure, the Commission would advise the Security Coun-

cil and the Economic and Social Council. Its core membership should comprise Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, major donors and leading troop contributors. In country specific operations, the Commission should involve the national or transitional authorities, relevant regional actors and organizations, troop contributors and the major donors to the specific country.

In terms of modalities, the Commission should be advisory in nature, meet on a quarterly basis, with country-specific meetings held at regular intervals, and should be flexible in allowing participation by national actors and field- and capital-based representatives.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 60/1** of 16 September (see p. 48), agreed to establish the Peacebuilding Commission.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 5335], the Security Council, acting concurrently with the General Assembly in **resolution 60/180** (see below for text of resolution), unanimously adopted **resolution 1645(2005)**. The draft [S/2005/803] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

On the same date, the Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1646(2005)**. The draft [S/2005/806] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 1645(2005) of 20 December 2005,

1. *Decides*, pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of resolution 1645(2005), that the permanent members listed in article 23, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations shall be members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission and that, in addition, the Security Council shall select annually two of its elected members to participate in the Organizational Committee;

2. *Decides also* that the annual report referred to in paragraph 15 of resolution 1645(2005) shall also be submitted to the Council for an annual debate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, acting concurrently with the Security Council in **resolution 1645(2005)**, adopted **resolution 60/180** [draft: A/60/L.40] without vote [agenda items 46 and 120].

The Peacebuilding Commission

The General Assembly,

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

Reaffirming the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling, in particular, paragraphs 97 to 105 of the World Summit Outcome,

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

Emphasizing the need for a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconciliation with a view to achieving sustainable peace,

Recognizing the need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for sustainable development,

Recognizing also the vital role of the United Nations in preventing conflicts, assisting parties to conflicts to end hostilities and emerge towards recovery, reconstruction and development and in mobilizing sustained international attention and assistance,

Reaffirming the respective responsibilities and functions of the organs of the United Nations as defined in the Charter and the need to enhance coordination among them,

Affirming the primary responsibility of national and transitional Governments and authorities of countries emerging from conflict or at risk of relapsing into conflict, where they are established, in identifying their priorities and strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding, with a view to ensuring national ownership,

Emphasizing, in that regard, the importance of supporting national efforts to establish, redevelop or reform institutions for the effective administration of countries emerging from conflict, including capacity-building efforts,

Recognizing the important role of regional and sub-regional organizations in carrying out post-conflict peacebuilding activities in their regions, and stressing the need for sustained international support for their efforts and capacity-building to that end,

Recognizing also that countries that have experienced recent post-conflict recovery would make valuable contributions to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Recognizing further the role of Member States supporting the peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations through financial, troop and civilian police contributions,

Recognizing the important contribution of civil society and non-governmental organizations, including women organizations, to peacebuilding efforts,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding,

1. *Decides*, acting concurrently with the Security Council, in accordance with Articles 7, 22 and 29 of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to operationalizing the decision by the 2005 World Summit, to establish the Peacebuilding Commission as an intergovernmental advisory body;

2. *Also decides* that the following shall be the main purposes of the Commission:

(a) To bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated

strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;

(b) To focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development;

(c) To provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery;

3. *Further decides* that the Commission shall meet in various configurations;

4. *Decides* that the Commission shall have a standing Organizational Committee, responsible for developing its own rules of procedure and working methods, comprising:

(a) Seven members of the Security Council, including permanent members, selected according to rules and procedures decided by the Council;

(b) Seven members of the Economic and Social Council, elected from regional groups according to rules and procedures decided by the Council, giving due consideration to those countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery;

(c) Five top providers of assessed contributions to United Nations budgets and of voluntary contributions to United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, including a standing peacebuilding fund, that are not among those selected in (a) or (b) above, selected by and from among the ten top providers, giving due consideration to the size of their contributions, according to a list provided by the Secretary-General, based on the average annual contributions in the previous three calendar years for which statistical data are available;

(d) Five top providers of military personnel and civilian police to United Nations missions that are not among those selected in (a), (b) or (c) above, selected by and from among the ten top providers, giving due consideration to the size of their contributions, according to a list provided by the Secretary-General, based on the average monthly contributions in the previous three calendar years for which statistical data are available;

(e) Giving due consideration to representation from all regional groups in the overall composition of the Committee and to representation from countries that have experienced post-conflict recovery, seven additional members shall be elected according to rules and procedures decided by the General Assembly;

5. *Emphasizes* that a Member State can only be selected from one category set out in paragraph 4 above at any one time;

6. *Decides* that members of the Organizational Committee shall serve for renewable terms of two years, as applicable;

7. *Also decides* that country-specific meetings of the Commission, upon invitation of the Organizational Committee referred to in paragraph 4 above, shall include as members, in addition to members of the Committee, representatives from:

(a) The country under consideration;

(b) Countries in the region engaged in the post-conflict process and other countries that are involved in relief efforts and/or political dialogue, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(c) The major financial, troop and civilian police contributors involved in the recovery effort;

(d) The senior United Nations representative in the field and other relevant United Nations representatives;

(e) Such regional and international financial institutions as may be relevant;

8. *Further decides* that a representative of the Secretary-General shall be invited to participate in all meetings of the Commission;

9. *Decides* that representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutional donors shall be invited to participate in all meetings of the Commission in a manner suitable to their governing arrangements;

10. *Emphasizes* that the Commission shall work in cooperation with national or transitional authorities, where possible, in the country under consideration with a view to ensuring national ownership of the peacebuilding process;

11. *Also emphasizes* that the Commission shall, where appropriate, work in close consultation with regional and subregional organizations to ensure their involvement in the peacebuilding process in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter;

12. *Decides* that the Organizational Committee shall, giving due consideration to maintaining a balance in addressing situations in countries in different regions in accordance with the main purposes of the Commission as stipulated above, establish the agenda of the Commission based on the following:

(a) Requests for advice from the Security Council;

(b) Requests for advice from the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly with the consent of a concerned Member State in exceptional circumstances on the verge of lapsing or relapsing into conflict and with which the Security Council is not seized in accordance with Article 12 of the Charter;

(c) Requests for advice from Member States in exceptional circumstances on the verge of lapsing or relapsing into conflict and which are not on the agenda of the Security Council;

(d) Requests for advice from the Secretary-General;

13. *Also decides* that the Commission shall make the outcome of its discussions and recommendations publicly available as United Nations documents to all relevant bodies and actors, including the international financial institutions;

14. *Invites* all relevant United Nations bodies and other bodies and actors, including the international financial institutions, to take action on the advice of the Commission, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

15. *Decides* that the Commission shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly and that the Assembly shall hold an annual debate to review the report;

16. *Underlines* that in post-conflict situations on the agenda of the Security Council with which it is actively seized, in particular when there is a United Nations-mandated peacekeeping mission on the ground or under way and given the primary responsibility of the

Council for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter, the main purpose of the Commission will be to provide advice to the Council at its request;

17. *Also underlines* that the advice of the Commission to provide sustained attention as countries move from transitional recovery towards development will be of particular relevance to the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind its role as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development;

18. *Decides* that the Commission shall act in all matters on the basis of consensus of its members;

19. *Notes* the importance of participation of regional and local actors, and stresses the importance of adopting flexible working methods, including use of videoconferencing, meetings outside of New York and other modalities, in order to provide for the active participation of those most relevant to the deliberations of the Commission;

20. *Calls upon* the Commission to integrate a gender perspective into all of its work;

21. *Encourages* the Commission to consult with civil society, non-governmental organizations, including women organizations, and the private sector engaged in peacebuilding activities, as appropriate;

22. *Recommends* that the Commission terminate its consideration of a country-specific situation when foundations for sustainable peace and development are established or upon the request of national authorities of the country under consideration;

23. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to establish, within the Secretariat, from within existing resources, a small peacebuilding support office staffed by qualified experts to assist and support the Commission, and recognizes in that regard that such support could include gathering and analysing information relating to the availability of financial resources, relevant United Nations in-country planning activities, progress towards meeting short and medium-term recovery goals and best practices with respect to cross-cutting peacebuilding issues;

24. *Also reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to establish a multi-year standing peacebuilding fund for post-conflict peacebuilding, funded by voluntary contributions and taking due account of existing instruments, with the objective of ensuring the immediate release of resources needed to launch peacebuilding activities and the availability of appropriate financing for recovery;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the arrangements for establishing the peacebuilding fund during its sixtieth session;

26. *Calls upon* relevant bodies and Member States referred to in paragraph 4 above to communicate the names of members of the Organizational Committee to the Secretary-General to enable him to convene the first constituting meeting of the Committee as soon as possible following the adoption of the present resolution;

27. *Decides* that the arrangements set out above will be reviewed five years after the adoption of the present resolution to ensure that they are appropriate to fulfil the agreed functions of the Commission and that such a review and any changes as a result thereof

will be decided following the same procedure as set out in paragraph 1 above;

28. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session an item titled "Report of the Peacebuilding Commission".

Cooperation with regional organizations

High-level meeting between the UN and regional organizations. The sixth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations (New York, 25-26 July) was held under the theme "United Nations-regional organizations: partnership for a more secure world". Twenty regional organizations participated in the meeting, which discussed the findings of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change [YUN 2004, p. 54] and the Secretary-General's report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (see p. 67). As Chairman of the meeting, the Secretary-General transmitted the meeting's conclusions in identical letters to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council on 29 August [A/60/341-S/2005/567]. The participants condemned the spate of terrorist bombings of recent months (see p. 103), and held the view that human and State security depended on combating terrorism while respecting civil liberties and addressing the root causes of conflict and terrorism. Structural prevention needed to be complemented by effective operational prevention, based on effective regional-global cooperation in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. To that end, the systemic weaknesses of the global system, such as absolute poverty, natural resource depletion and environmental degradation, health pandemics and the social ills of crime and corruption, needed to be seriously addressed as issues of international peace and security.

Participants expressed satisfaction at the work done since the fifth high-level meeting [YUN 2003, p. 58] to strengthen the UN-regional organizations partnership, and endorsed the proposals of the six working groups that had been established on peacekeeping, civilian protection, respect for human rights in counter-terrorism, dialogue among civilizations, disarmament and the implications of United Nations reform for the partnership. They supported the further development of organizational capacities in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, particularly the proposed 10-year capacity-building plan for the African Union (AU), approved by the Assembly in resolution 60/1 (see p. 48). Future meetings would accord special attention to African needs.

In the light of the trauma experienced by the peoples of so many regions in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami and other national disasters, participants agreed to include disaster relief and related risk-reduction on their agenda for future cooperation. They recognized that a more structured relationship between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations was needed, and endorsed the Secretary-General's intention to conclude agreements with individual organizations. They agreed to convene annually to monitor developments in international security and promote UN goals; ensure that their high-level meetings coincided with the Security Council's meetings with regional organizations; establish a standing committee to, among other things, ensure implementation of their decisions; identify one high-level official in each organization to liaise with the United Nations and with one another; recognize that interested regional and subregional organizations should pursue joint activities under the umbrella of high-level meetings under Chapter VIII of the Charter, while other intergovernmental organizations should partner with the United Nations under the other Charter provisions; and strengthen the secretariat of the high-level meetings to assist the new standing committee and the working groups. Participants supported the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission by the General Assembly in resolution 60/1 (see p. 48), and adopted a statement on a partnership among civilizations, which was appended to its report.

Security Council public meeting. On 17 October [meeting 5282], the Security Council met with representatives of the AU, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to consider cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

In a discussion paper forwarded to the Secretary-General on 10 October [S/2005/638], Romania stated that the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations was pursued on an ad hoc basis, despite its widely acknowledged importance and day-to-day impact on Council activities. Given the significant participation of those organizations in maintaining peace and security all over the world, the time was right for the relationship to become more focused and organized. Romania proposed that the

meeting take measures to deepen and better structure the Council's relationship with regional organizations; follow up in the Council's areas of responsibility on the understandings reached at the World Summit in that regard; and draw attention to the opinions of regional organizations on the subject, with a view to enhancing their contributions to maintaining international peace and security.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 October [meeting 5282], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1631(2005)**. The draft [S/2005/649] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

The Security Council,

Recalling Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its previous relevant resolutions and the statement by its President,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling its invitation of 28 January 1993 to regional organizations to improve coordination with the United Nations, the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1994, the meeting of the Security Council on the theme "The Security Council and regional organizations: facing the new challenges to international peace and security", held on 11 April 2003 under the presidency of Mexico, and its debate on the theme "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in stabilization processes", held on 20 July 2004 under the presidency of Romania,

Welcoming the Conclusions of the Chairman of the sixth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations, held in New York on 25 and 26 July 2005,

Reiterating its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Emphasizing that the growing contribution made by regional organizations in cooperation with the United Nations can usefully complement the work of the Organization in maintaining international peace and security, and stressing in this regard that such contribution must be made in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter,

Recognizing the necessity to support capacity-building and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in maintaining international peace and security, and noting in particular the importance of strengthening the capacity of African regional and subregional organizations,

Acknowledging the resolve of Heads of State and Government of the 2005 World Summit to expand, as appropriate, the involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council, and to ensure that regional organizations that have a capacity for the prevention of armed conflict or peacekeeping consider

the option of placing such capacity in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System,

Welcoming the decision in the 2005 World Summit Outcome to establish a Peacebuilding Commission, and looking forward to it as an important opportunity for cooperation and close contact with regional and subregional organizations in post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery,

1. *Expresses its determination* to take appropriate steps for the further development of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and invites regional and subregional organizations that have a capacity for conflict prevention or peacekeeping to place such capacities in the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System;

2. *Urges* all States and relevant international organizations to contribute to strengthening the capacity of regional and subregional organizations, in particular of African regional and subregional organizations, in conflict prevention and crisis management, and in post-conflict stabilization, including through the provision of human, technical and financial assistance, and welcomes in this regard the establishment by the European Union of the African Peace Facility;

3. *Stresses* the importance for the United Nations of developing the ability of regional and subregional organizations to deploy peacekeeping forces rapidly in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations or other operations mandated by the Security Council, and welcomes relevant initiatives taken in this regard;

4. *Stresses also* the potential role of regional and subregional organizations in addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the need to take into account in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, where appropriate, the regional instruments enabling States to identify and trace illegal small arms and light weapons;

5. *Reiterates* the need to encourage regional cooperation, including through the involvement of regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, and to include, where appropriate, specific provisions with this aim in future mandates of peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations authorized by the Council;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by its subsidiary bodies with responsibilities in counter-terrorism to foster cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, notes with appreciation the efforts made by an increasing number of regional and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism, and urges all relevant regional and subregional organizations to enhance the effectiveness of their counter-terrorism efforts within their respective mandates, including with a view to develop their capacity to help Member States in their efforts to tackle the threats to international peace and security posed by acts of terrorism;

7. *Expresses its intention* to hold regular meetings, as appropriate, with heads of regional and subregional organizations in order to strengthen the interaction and cooperation with these organizations in maintaining international peace and security, ensuring, if possible, that such meetings coincide with the annual high-level meetings held by the United Nations with

regional and other intergovernmental organizations for better efficiency of participation and substantive complementarity of agendas;

8. *Recommends* better communication between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations through, notably, liaison officers and the holding of consultations at all appropriate levels;

9. *Reiterates* the obligation for regional organizations, under article 54 of the Charter, to keep the Council fully informed of their activities for the maintenance of international peace and security;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council on the opportunities and challenges facing the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, and encourages the Secretary-General to explore with regional organizations the possibility of agreements establishing a framework for regional organizations' cooperation with and contributions to United Nations-led peacekeeping operations, taking into due consideration the cooperation guidelines already identified between the United Nations and certain regional organizations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to include in his regular reporting to the Council on peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations under its mandate, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations;

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

Reports of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in his report on the work of the Organization [A/60/1], described UN cooperation activities with regional organizations in the areas of peace and security and development. In his report entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" [A/59/2005], submitted to the 2005 World Summit, he said that the United Nations and regional organizations should play complementary roles in facing the challenges of international peace and security. In that context, donor countries should pay particular attention to the need for a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the AU.

To improve coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations, he intended to introduce memoranda of understanding with individual organizations, governing the sharing of information, expertise and resources, and would invite regional organizations to participate in UN system meetings, when issues of interest to them were being discussed. The Secretary-General also proposed that the rules of UN peacekeeping budgets be amended to give the Organization the option, in exceptional circumstances, to use assessed contributions to finance Council-authorized regional operations or the participation of regional organizations in multi-pillar peace operations under the overall umbrella of the United Nations.

Political and peacebuilding missions in 2005

During 2005, 12 UN political and peacebuilding missions were in operation: six in Africa, five in Asia and the Pacific and one in the Middle East. With regard to the missions in Africa, the mandates of the United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau were extended until 31 December 2006. The mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan was extended until 24 March 2005. On the same day, the Security Council established the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for an initial period of six months and asked the Secretary-General to transfer all functions performed by the United Nations advance mission to the new mission. The activities of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia were extended for the 2006-2007 biennium, and on 31 August, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) for a period of 12 months, beginning 1 January 2006. In other Council action, the mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa was extended for three years from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.

In Asia and the Pacific, the Council established the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL), which would operate for one year, until 20 May 2006. The Council extended the mandates of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding until 1 June 2006, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan was extended until 24 March 2006, and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq until 11 August 2006. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United Nations Command continued to implement the maintenance of the 1953 Armistice Agreement [YUN 1953, p. 136].

(For the financing of UN political and peacebuilding missions, see PART FIVE, Chapter II.)

Roster of 2005 political and peacebuilding offices

The figures for mission strength listed for the following missions and offices are as at 1 December 2005.

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 humani-

tarian and security situation, repatriation of refugees and impacts on neighbouring countries.

Head of Office: François Lonseny Fall (Guinea).

Strength: 5 international civilian staff, 3 local civilian staff.

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 to 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.

UNOGBIS

United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

Established: 3 March 1999.

Mandate: To assist in the transition from conflict management to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction; to promote national reconciliation and assist in the holding of elections and security and justice sectors reform. That mandate was revised in 2005 to help the country consolidate democratic gains.

Head of Office: João Bernardo Honwana (Mozambique).

Strength: 11 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 of the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and Special Representative: Alvaro de Soto (Peru).

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

BONUCA

United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic

Established: 15 February 2000.

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

Head of Office: General Lamine Cissé (Senegal).

Strength: 25 international civilian staff, 5 military advisers, 6 civilian police, 44 local civilian staff, 2 UN volunteers.

UNTOP

United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding

Established: 1 June 2000.

Mandate: To provide a political framework and leadership for post-conflict peacebuilding.

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

Strength: 10 international civilian staff, 18 local civilian staff, 1 civilian police adviser.

UNOWA

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa

Established: March 2002.

Mandate: To ensure the strengthening of harmonization and coordination of UN system activities in an integrated regional perspective and 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: Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania).

Strength: 7 international civilian staff, 7 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: Jean Arnault (France).

Strength: 185 international civilian staff, 751 local civilian staff, 11 military observers; 7 civilian police, 42 UN volunteers.

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).

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Ashraf Jehangir Qazi (Pakistan).

Strength: 222 international civilian staff, 365 local civilian staff, 5 military advisers (including staff in Jordan and Kuwait).

UNOMB

United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea)

Established: 1 January 2004.

Ended: 30 June 2005.

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

Head of Office: Tor Stenbock (Norway).

Strength: 2 international civilian staff.

UNAMIS

United Nations Advance Mission in Sudan

Established: 11 June 2004.

Ended: 24 March 2005.

Mandate: To prepare for the international monitoring foreseen in the 2003 Naivasha Agreement on Security Arrangements, to facilitate contacts with the parties concerned and to prepare for the introduction of a peace support operation following the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Johannes Pronk (Netherlands).

UNOTIL

United Nations Office in Timor Leste

Established: 28 April 2005.

Mandate: To support the development of critical State institutions, support the further development of the police and provide training in the observance of democratic governance and human rights.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Sukehiro Hasegawa (Japan).

Strength: 158 international civilian staff, 281 local civilian staff, 15 military advisers, 57 civilian police, 36 UN volunteers (Staff in Jordan and Kuwait were included).

Threats to international peace and security

International terrorism

Report of Secretary-General to the World Summit. The Secretary-General, in his report to the 2005 World Summit [A/59/2005] (see p. 67) entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", said that ter-

rorism was a threat to all that the United Nations stood for, including respect for human rights and the rule of law, the protection of civilians, tolerance among peoples and nations, and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Transnational networks of terrorist groups had global reach and made common cause to pose a universal threat, desired to acquire nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and to inflict mass casualties. The strategy against the problem had to be comprehensive and based on five pillars: dissuading people from resorting to terrorism or supporting it; denying terrorists access to funds and materials; deterring States from sponsoring terrorism; developing State capacity to defeat terrorism; and defending human rights. He urged Member States and civil society organizations everywhere to join in that strategy. He said that the moral authority of the United Nations and its strength in condemning terrorism had been hampered by the inability of Member States to agree on a comprehensive convention that included a definition of terrorism. The Secretary-General fully endorsed the call of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change [YUN 2004, p. 54] for such a definition, which would make it clear that, in addition to actions already proscribed by existing conventions, any action constituted terrorism that was intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a Government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing something. He believed that the proposal had a clear moral force and strongly urged world leaders to unite behind it and to conclude a comprehensive convention on terrorism before the end of the General Assembly's sixtieth (2005) session. The Secretary-General also urged Member States to complete, without delay, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism (see p. 1410), and to appoint a special rapporteur to report to the Commission on Human Rights on the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures with international human rights laws.

The General Assembly, in resolution 60/1 (see p. 48), which contained the World Summit Outcome, welcomed the Secretary-General's identification of elements of a counter-terrorism strategy, which the Assembly should develop, adopt and implement.

Summit meeting of the Security Council

By a 2 September note [S/2005/562], the Security Council President issued a statement on the Council's behalf, informing the media that Council members had agreed to take advantage of the presence of Heads of State and Govern-

ment in New York to hold a meeting on 14 September, to consider the subject of international peace and security.

On 14 September [meeting 5261], the Council held a summit-level meeting at the level of Heads of State or Government to discuss threats to international peace and security. It adopted two resolutions, the first of which was on the prevention of terrorism (1624(2005)) (see below) and the other on enhanced steps to prevent armed conflict, particularly in Africa (1625(2005)) (see p. 155).

Speaking after the vote, the Secretary-General, elaborating on the elements of his proposed counter-terrorism strategy, said that the international community should complete a comprehensive convention that outlawed terrorism in all its forms. He also hoped that States would accede without delay to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism adopted by the Assembly (see p. 1410). In terms of developing State capacity to prevent terrorism, including the promotion of good governance and the rule of law, he welcomed the establishment of the Democracy Fund (see p. 655). The Secretary-General urged that the victims of terrorism should not be forgotten, noting that the Security Council had agreed to explore the possibility of an international fund to compensate victims and their families, which should be financed in part with assets seized from terrorist organizations.

President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation said that the common task was to create a truly solid front in the fight against terrorism, and any attempt to condone it or to use terrorists for different political purposes should be condemned unanimously. Those who advocated terrorism and propagated the ideologies of racism and ethnic or religious intolerance should be fought, not only using the power of the State but also engaging civil society, the mass media, humanitarian cooperation and interreligious dialogue. He said that the issues of fighting terrorism and its roots needed further cooperation and should be permanent items on the agenda of the United Nations, including the Security Council and other UN bodies.

United States President, George Bush, said that Council members had a solemn obligation to stop terrorism in its early stages, to defend their citizens against terrorism, to attack terrorist networks and deprive them of a safe haven, and to promote an ideology of freedom and tolerance that would refute the dark vision of the terrorist. They should do all they could to disrupt each stage of planning and support for terrorist acts, be consistent with past Council resolutions to

freeze terrorist assets, deny them freedom of movement and prevent them from acquiring weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. The United States would continue to work with and through the Council to help all nations meet those commitments.

China's President, Hu Jintao, said that China supported an important role for the Security Council in responding to terrorism and other non-traditional threats to security. However, the international community should act in strict accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and work closely in a more effective fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was also essential to promote dialogue among civilizations and to earnestly address problems of poverty, ignorance and social justice in order to eliminate the breeding ground for terrorism.

United Kingdom Prime Minister, Anthony Blair, told the Council that the terrorism, which had disfigured countries in every continent, at every stage of development, with every conceivable mix of races and religions, was a movement. It had an ideology and a strategy, which was not just to kill, but to cause chaos and instability and to divide and confuse nations. It would not be defeated until the international community's determination was as complete as theirs, its defence of freedom as absolute as their fanaticism, and its passion for the democratic way as great as their passion for tyranny. It was a doctrine of fanaticism, and the international community should unite to uproot it by cooperating on security, taking action against those who incited, preached or taught extremism and eliminating ambivalence by fighting not just the methods of terrorism but also the motivation, reasoning and excuses for terror.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 September [meeting 5261], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1624 (2005)**. The draft [S/2005/577] was prepared in prior consultations among Council members.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1535(2004) of 26 March 2004, 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004, 1566(2004) of 8 October 2004 and 1617(2005) of 29 July 2005, the declaration annexed to its resolution 1456(2003) of 20 January 2003, as well as its other resolutions concerning threats to international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism,

Reaffirming also the imperative to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and also stressing that 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 law, refugee law and humanitarian law,

Condemning in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism irrespective of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed, as one of the most serious threats to peace and security, and reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter,

Condemning in the strongest terms also the incitement of terrorist acts, and repudiating attempts at the justification or glorification (*apologie*) of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts,

Deeply concerned that the incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance poses a serious and growing danger to the enjoyment of human rights, threatens the social and economic development of all States, undermines global stability and prosperity, and must be addressed urgently and proactively by the United Nations and all States, and emphasizing the need to take all necessary and appropriate measures in accordance with international law at the national and international levels to protect the right to life,

Recalling the right to freedom of expression reflected in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948 ("the Universal Declaration"), and recalling also the right to freedom of expression set out in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted by the Assembly on 16 December 1966 and that any restrictions thereon shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary on the grounds set out in article 19, paragraph 3, of the Covenant,

Recalling also the right to seek and enjoy asylum reflected in article 14 of the Universal Declaration and the non-refoulement obligation of States under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees adopted on 28 July 1951, together with its Protocol adopted on 31 January 1967 ("the Refugees Convention and its Protocol"), and also recalling that the protections afforded by the Refugees Convention and its Protocol shall not extend to any person with respect to whom there are serious reasons for considering that he has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that acts, methods and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned by the increasing number of victims, especially among civilians of diverse nationalities and beliefs, of terrorism motivated by intolerance or extremism in various regions of the world, reaffirming its profound solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families, and stressing the importance of assisting victims of terrorism and providing them and their families with support to cope with their loss and grief,

Recognizing the essential role of the United Nations in the global effort to combat terrorism, and welcoming the identification by the Secretary-General of elements of a counter-terrorism strategy to be considered

and developed by the General Assembly without delay with a view to adopting and implementing a strategy to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter terrorism,

Stressing its call upon all States to become party, as a matter of urgency, to the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols whether or not they are party to regional conventions on the matter, and to give priority consideration to signing the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly on 13 April 2005,

Re-emphasizing 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, and addressing unresolved regional conflicts and the full range of global issues, including development issues, will contribute to strengthening the international fight against terrorism,

Stressing the importance of the role of the media, civil and religious society, the business community and educational institutions in those efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding, and in promoting tolerance and coexistence and fostering an environment which is not conducive to incitement of terrorism,

Recognizing the importance, in an increasingly globalized world, of States acting cooperatively to prevent terrorists from exploiting sophisticated technology, communications and resources to incite support for criminal acts,

Recalling that all States must cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens,

1. *Calls upon* all States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law:

(a) To prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts;

(b) To prevent such conduct;

(c) To deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct;

2. *Also calls upon* all States to cooperate, inter alia, to strengthen the security of their international borders, including by combating fraudulent travel documents and, to the extent attainable, by enhancing terrorist screening and passenger security procedures with a view to preventing those guilty of the conduct in paragraph 1 (a) above from entering their territory;

3. *Further calls upon* all States to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, and to take all measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to counter incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance

and to prevent the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters;

4. *Stresses* that States must ensure that any measures taken to implement paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the present resolution comply with all of their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law;

5. *Calls upon* all States to report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee), as part of their ongoing dialogue, on the steps that they have taken to implement the present resolution;

6. *Directs* the Counter-Terrorism Committee:

(a) To include in its dialogue with Member States their efforts to implement the present resolution;

(b) To work with Member States to help to build capacity, including by spreading best legal practice and promoting exchange of information in this regard;

(c) To report back to the Council in twelve months on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

2005 terrorist attacks

In 2005, there was an unprecedented rise in the number of terrorist attacks worldwide. The Security Council met on 10 occasions to condemn such acts and to express sympathy and condolences to the victims and affected Governments and its determination to combat terrorism in all its forms.

London

On 7 July, a series of bombs exploded in London's public transport system during the morning rush hour, killing 52 persons, including the four perpetrators, and wounding 700. The incident was the deadliest single act of terrorism since the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The four terrorists, Mohammed Sidique Khan, Shehzad Tanweer, Germaine Lindsay and Hasib Hussain, belonged to an Al-Qaida affiliated organization named the Secret Organization of Al-Qaida in Europe, which later claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The Secretary-General deplored the atrocious bombings as an attack on humanity itself and urged that such violence should not be allowed to derail efforts to combat poverty and address the aspirations of billions of people worldwide.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 7 July [meeting 5223], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1611(2005)**. The draft [S/2005/437] was prepared in consultation among Council members.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1566(2004) of 8 October 2004,

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 without reservation* the terrorist attacks in London on 7 July 2005, and regards any act of terrorism as a threat to peace and security;

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

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

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

Communication. On 8 July [S/2005/450], Saudi Arabia transmitted to the Council President a statement on the bombings in London, issued by the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema and of the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta', declaring that the incidents of individual and collective killing, explosions, destruction of property and the terrorizing of peace-loving people were forbidden by Islam and that any attribution of those acts to Islam was unjust. Islam forbade the unjust killing of human beings and Islamic scholars had repeatedly expressed their censure of such abominable acts and had stated time and again that those acts had nothing to do with Islam.

Iraq

On 7 July [S/2005/438], Egypt informed the Security Council that its recently appointed Ambassador to Iraq, Ihab El Sherif, was killed that day, four days after being kidnapped in Baghdad by a group of terrorists. Egypt said that while it continued to support the people of Iraq at its critical political juncture, it was regrettable that there still existed some groups that disrespected the sacredness of human life. It called on the Council to condemn the surge of violence against foreign diplomats in Iraq, in particular the killing of Ambassador El Sherif.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 8 July [meeting 5224], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/29** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the assassination of the recently appointed Head of the Egyptian Mission to Iraq, Ambassador Ihab El Sherif, on 7 July 2005 and expresses its condolences to the family of the victim and to the Government and people of Egypt.

The Council also condemns all terrorist attacks in Iraq, including the attempted assassinations of diplomats from Bahrain and Pakistan and attacks against other civilian personnel.

The Council emphasizes that there can be no justification for such terrorist acts and underlines the need to bring to justice the perpetrators.

The Council reaffirms its unwavering support for the Iraqi people in their political transition, as outlined in its resolution 1546(2004). The Council also reaffirms the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and calls upon the international community to stand by the Iraqi people in their pursuit of peace, stability and democracy.

The Council welcomes Egypt's continued commitment in this regard, as stated in the letter dated 7 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Council, and recognizes the important role of Egypt and other neighbouring countries in supporting the political process, helping to control transit across Iraq's borders, and extending other support to the Iraqi people.

On 27 July [meeting 5240], following consultations among Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/37** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the assassination, today, 27 July 2005, of the two Algerian diplomats accredited to the Algerian Embassy to Iraq, Mr. Ali Belaroussi and Mr. Azzedine Belkadi, and expresses its condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of Algeria.

The Council emphasizes that there can be no justification for such terrorist acts and underlines the need to bring to justice the perpetrators.

The Council reaffirms its unwavering support for the Iraqi people in their political transition, as outlined in resolution 1546(2004). The Council also reaffirms the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and calls upon the international community to stand by the Iraqi people in their pursuit of peace, stability and democracy.

On 4 August [meeting 5246], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1618(2005)**. The draft [S/2005/494] was submitted by Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming all its previous relevant resolutions on Iraq, in particular resolution 1546(2004) of 8 June 2004,

Reaffirming its unwavering support for the Iraqi people in their political transition, as outlined in resolution 1546(2004), further reaffirming Iraq's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and

calling upon the international community to stand by the Iraqi people in their pursuit of peace, stability and democracy,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1566(2004) of 8 October 2004, and 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999 and subsequent resolutions,

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

Commending the courage of the Iraqi people who are working bravely in support of the political and economic transition currently taking place in spite of the grave threat of terrorism,

Welcoming the active steps undertaken by the Government of Iraq towards achieving national dialogue and unity, and encouraging the continuation of those efforts,

1. *Condemns without reservation and in the strongest terms* the terrorist attacks that have taken place in Iraq, and regards any act of terrorism as a threat to peace and security;

2. *Takes note in particular* of the shameless and horrific attacks in recent weeks which have resulted in over one hundred deaths, including thirty-two children, employees of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, and a member and an expert adviser of the Commission charged with drafting a permanent constitution for a new, democratic Iraq, Mr. Mijbil Sheikh Issa and Mr. Dhamin Hussein Ubaidi;

3. *Notes with great concern* that attacks on foreign diplomats in Iraq have increased in number and have resulted in the murder or kidnapping of such diplomats;

4. *Expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences* to the victims of these terrorist attacks and their families, and to the people and Government of Iraq;

5. *Affirms* that acts of terrorism must not be allowed to disrupt Iraq's political and economic transition currently taking place, including the constitutional drafting process and its referendum, as outlined in resolution 1546(2004);

6. *Reaffirms* the obligations of Member States under resolutions 1373(2001), 1267(1999), 1333(2000) of 19 December 2000, 1390(2002) of 16 January 2002, 1455(2003) of 17 January 2003, 1526(2004) of 30 January 2004 and 1617(2005) of 29 July 2005 and other relevant international obligations with respect, inter alia, to terrorist activities in and from Iraq or against its citizens, and, specifically, strongly urges Member States to prevent the transit of terrorists to and from Iraq, arms for terrorists, and financing that would support terrorists, and re-emphasizes the importance of strengthening the cooperation of the countries in the region, particularly neighbours of Iraq, in this regard;

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

8. *Expresses its utmost determination* to combat terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to support fully the Government of Iraq in exercising its responsibilities to provide protection to the diplomatic

community, United Nations staff and other foreign civilian personnel working in Iraq;

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

Egypt

On 23 July, a series of bomb attacks targeted the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Some 88 people were killed and over 150 wounded. Among them were nationals from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. It was the deadliest terrorist attack in that country's history.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 July [meeting 5239], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/36** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council unequivocally condemns the terrorist attacks that took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 23 July 2005, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the people and Government of Egypt as well as to all other countries whose citizens have been killed or injured in these attacks.

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

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

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

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

Indonesia

On 1 October, a series of explosions occurred at Jimbaran and Kuta in Bali, Indonesia, killing 23 people, including the three bombers, and wounding some 129 persons.

On 4 October [meeting 5274], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/45** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist bombings that took place on 1 Oc-

tober 2005 in Bali, Indonesia, which has again fallen victim to a heinous act of terrorism.

The Council expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the people and the Government of Indonesia.

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

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

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

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

India

On 29 October, three explosions at the Sarojini Nagar marketplace, the Paharganj marketplace and on a bus in the Govindpuri area in Delhi, India, killed 61 people and injured some 92 others. Responsibility for the attack, which took place just before the important festival of Diwali, was claimed by a Pakistan-based organization called the Islamic Inquilab Mahaz.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 31 October [meeting 5298], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/53** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council strongly condemns the series of bomb attacks that occurred in New Delhi on 29 October 2005, causing numerous deaths and injuries, and expresses its deepest condolences to the victims of these heinous acts of terrorism and their families, and to the people and the Government of India.

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

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

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

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

Jordan

On 9 November, Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for coordinated bomb attacks at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, the Radisson SAS Hotel and the Days Inn in Amman, Jordan, which killed a total of 60 persons and the three suicide bombers, and injured 115 others.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 10 November [meeting 5303], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/55** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist bombings that took place in Amman on 9 November 2005.

The Council expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families, and to the people and the Government of Jordan.

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

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

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

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

Lebanon

On 15 February [meeting 5122], the Security Council, in statement **S/PRST/2005/4** (see p. 551), condemned the 14 February terrorist bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, which killed the former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri and others, and inflicted serious injury on doz-

ens of people, including former Minister Basil Fleihan.

On 7 June [meeting 5197], the Council, in statement **S/PRST/2005/22** (see p. 560), condemned the 2 June terrorist bombing in Beirut that killed Lebanese journalist, Samir Qassir, and welcomed the determination of the Government to bring the perpetrators to justice.

On 12 December [meeting 5320], the Council, in statement **S/PRST/2005/61** (see p. 560), condemned the terrorist bombing on that same day in the suburbs of Beirut, which killed Lebanese member of Parliament and journalist, Gebrane Tueni.

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

During 2005, the United Nations pursued actions on several fronts to combat and eliminate terrorism. The Security Council, by **resolution 1617(2005)** of 29 July (see p. 410), adopted measures to tighten the sanctions imposed against Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their associates.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 59/290** of 13 April, adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (see p. 1411); and in **resolution 60/43** of 8 December (see p. 1417), it called on all States to prevent and suppress terrorist acts and asked the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to enhance the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism. In **resolution 60/78** (see p. 602) of the same date, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues regarding the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to seek the views of Member States on additional measures for tackling that threat.

Communications. On 10 March [A/59/754-S/2005/197], Croatia transmitted to the Secretary-General the Zagreb Declaration on International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism, Corruption and the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted at an expert workshop on the subject (Zagreb, Croatia, 7-9 March).

On 11 April [A/59/775-S/2005/238], Spain transmitted to the Secretary-General the Madrid Agenda adopted at the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security (Madrid, Spain, 8-11 March), organized by the Madrid Club (a body of former presidents and prime ministers of democratic countries dedicated to the promotion of democracy). The Agenda contained a number of recommendations for combating international terrorism.

The Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations transmitted to the Security Council President on 10 May [S/2005/309] the "Recommendations of the Arab Regional Seminar on Combating Terrorism" (Cairo, Egypt, 16-17 February).

On 18 May [A/59/811], Mauritius transmitted to the Secretary-General the Port Louis Declaration, adopted by the Regional Ministerial Conference of French-speaking Countries of Africa for the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the UN conventions on combating terrorism, corruption and transnational organized crime and of the universal counter-terrorism instruments (Port Louis, Mauritius, 25-27 October 2004).

Cuba, on 24 May [A/59/812-S/2005/341], transmitted to the Secretary-General a document containing "Summary of main points concerning the presence of terrorist Luis Posada Carriles in the United States".

On 25 July [A/59/882-S/2005/488], Cape Verde transmitted to the Secretary-General the action plan adopted by a regional expert workshop on the ratification and implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism, transnational organized crime and corruption, as well as the drafting of reports to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (Praia, Cape Verde, 8-10 December 2004).

On 12 August [A/59/895-S/2005/527], Egypt transmitted to the Secretary-General the recommendations adopted by a national workshop on the legal instruments to fight terrorism (Cairo, Egypt, 21-22 December 2004). On 1 September [A/60/329], Egypt also transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, proposing the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to examine and adopt an action plan for cooperation against terrorism.

Counter-Terrorism Committee

In 2005, the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established by Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], submitted CTC's work programmes for the 90-day periods from 1 January to 31 March [S/2005/22], 1 April to 30 June [S/2005/266], 1 July to 30 September [S/2005/421] and 1 October to 31 December [S/2005/663]. The Council considered those work programmes at meetings held on 18 January, 25 April, 20 July and 26 October.

Security Council consideration (January). The CTC Chairman, reporting on 18 January [meeting 5113] to the Security Council on the Committee's work, said that the Committee had received 551 reports from Member States and other

entities by 31 December 2004. He reported two problems that required attention: the shortage of experts to review reports submitted by Member States and the increasing number of those failing to submit their reports on time. He emphasized that the Committee, operating through the CTC Executive Directorate (CTED), was prepared to provide Member States with the necessary assistance and guidelines on issues relating to the implementation of resolution 1373(2002) and had begun to review the problem in a broader context. CTC continued to develop new approaches to providing technical assistance and was undertaking analytical work to assess the assistance needs of Member States. It would also continue to update the Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance and the Assistance Matrix. CTC would also continue to encourage Member States to accede to the 12 relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism [YUN 2001, p. 69] and regularly monitor progress in that area.

During that period, the Committee completed preparations for its initial visit to several Member States in implementation of resolutions 1535(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 79] on the revitalization of the Committee and 1566(2004) [ibid., p. 74], emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism. The visits were to help develop a more direct dialogue with national Governments, to enhance monitoring of the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) and to ensure a more accurate assessment of the capacities of States and their technical assistance needs.

CTC prepared for its fourth special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations, and commended the proposal of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to organize that meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 26 to 28 January. It maintained cooperation between CTC experts and those of the Monitoring Group on sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban, and would seek to establish contacts with the newly appointed experts under resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544].

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 January [meeting 5113], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/3** 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) concerning 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 19 October 2004, which indicated the intention of the Council to review the structure and activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, resolution 1535(2004) on the revitalization of the Committee and resolution 1566(2004) emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism.

The Council invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to pursue its agenda as set out in the work programme for the Committee for the fourteenth 90-day period. It invites the Committee, in particular, to ensure that Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate becomes fully operational in the shortest possible time, and to take additional measures to enhance cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) and to initiate contacts with the Security Council Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566(2004).

The Council notes the importance of continuing the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the following key areas: to enhance the capabilities of Member States to combat terrorism, to identify and address the problems faced by States in implementing resolution 1373(2001), to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and cooperation adjusted to the recipient countries' needs, to encourage the largest possible number of States to become parties to the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and to strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations acting in the areas outlined in resolution 1373(2001).

The Council welcomes the intention of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to hold its fourth special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations from 26 to 28 January 2005 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Council invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to accelerate the preparation of assessments of Member States' assistance needs so that these can be shared with the relevant States and, in due course, with interested donor States and organizations. The Council invites the Committee to conduct the first of its visits to Member States in March 2005 in order to enhance the monitoring by the Committee of the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) and to facilitate the provision of technical and other assistance for such implementation.

The Council notes that, as of 16 December 2004, 75 States had not submitted their respective reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on time as set out in resolution 1373(2001). It calls upon them urgently to do so, in order to maintain the universality of response which the threat of terrorism and the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) require.

The Council invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to continue reporting on its activities at regular intervals.

Communication. On 3 February [S/2005/87], CTC Chairman transmitted to the Council President summaries provided by international, regional and subregional organizations and bodies and UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes that participated in the CTC/CIS fourth special meeting (26-28 January) regarding their activities and experiences in counter-terrorism and developments in their work in that regard since 2003.

Security Council consideration (April). The CTC Chairman, reporting to the Council on 25 April, together with the Chairmen of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), on the work of CTC, said that 75 States were late in submitting their reports, due to the lack of available technical capacity and “reporting fatigue”. CTC’s visit to Member States were initiated by a visit to Morocco (14-18 March), with similar visits to Albania, Kenya and Thailand planned. The Committee encouraged respective Member States to welcome those visits. With regard to technical needs assessments, a methodology on their preparation and review was developed and agreed upon. So far, 51 assessments were prepared and 11 endorsed by CTC and forwarded for review by Member States.

For technical reasons, CTED had not yet become fully operational and that seriously limited CTC’s ability to sustain dialogue with Member States. CTC, as requested by the Council in resolution 1566(2004), was developing a set of best practices to assist States in implementing the provisions of resolution 1373(2001) relating to the financing of terrorism. It had also taken steps towards its own revitalization, in accordance with resolution 1535(2004). As set out in the work programme for April to June, it would continue efforts to complete the revitalization process, particularly in terms of developing a fully functional CTED.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 April [meeting 5168], following consultations among Security Council members, the Council President made **statement S/PRST/2005/16** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the briefings by the Chairmen of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) con-

cerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) on counter-terrorism and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), on the work of the three Committees.

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 motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The Council also reaffirms that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security as stressed in resolution 1540(2004). The Council recalls its grave concern about the risk posed by non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The Council welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly on 13 April 2005 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism by consensus.

The Council stresses the different mandates of the three Committees. The Council reaffirms its call for enhanced cooperation among the Committees, as well as their respective groups of experts, in monitoring implementation by States of provisions of the Council resolutions relevant to the three Committees, and invites the Committees, including their respective groups of experts, to strengthen further their cooperation through enhanced information sharing, coordinated visits to countries and other issues of relevance to the three Committees. The Council also invites the three Committees to continue cooperation with the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566(2004).

The Council recalls the obligation of Member States to report to the three Committees in a timely manner on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolutions 1267(1999), 1373(2001), and 1540(2004) and related resolutions, and encourages the three Committees to consider, if appropriate, how to deal with late submission of reports to these Committees in a coordinated manner.

The Council reaffirms that the responsibility for implementing its resolutions relevant to the mandates of the three Committees, including preparation of reports to the respective Committees, rests with the States. The Council encourages international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance their efforts to further the implementation by their members of these resolutions, and further encourages such organizations, as well as States, where appropriate, to provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of States to implement these resolutions.

The Council welcomes the important contribution made by relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism and to ensure that non-State actors do not develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The Council

encourages the three Committees to further strengthen their cooperation with such organizations.

The Council further welcomes the important contribution made to the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Council resolution 1526(2004) in application of its mandate annexed to that resolution; to the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) by its experts; and, to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate established by resolution 1535(2004), and notes with satisfaction the completion by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of its first field mission to a Member State as contemplated by resolution 1535(2004).

The Council invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee to pursue its agenda as set out in the work programme for its fifteenth 90-day period. The Council encourages all parts of the United Nations to do their utmost to ensure that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate becomes fully operational in the shortest possible time.

The Council also invites the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) to pursue its undertakings as provided for in the first trimestrial programme of work approved by the Committee on 22 April 2005. The Council welcomes the submission by 113 Member States so far of reports on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540(2004), and calls upon States that have not yet submitted a report to do so as soon as possible. The Council welcomes the recruitment of experts of the Committee, and notes that they have begun to support the Committee in the consideration of the first reports submitted by Member States pursuant to resolution 1540(2004).

The Council invites the three Committees to continue reporting on their activities at regular intervals and, where appropriate, in a coordinated manner.

Report of CTC Chairman (July). Reporting to the Security Council on 20 July [meeting 5229], the CTC Chairman stated that CTED had visited Kenya in May and Albania and Thailand in June and obtained a thorough understanding of the situation in those countries and a better insight into the difficulties facing States seeking to ensure full implementation of resolution 1373(2001). To guarantee follow-up to those visits, CTC was committed to ensuring that the technical needs identified during the visits were met.

Noting that, as at July, 67 States were behind in their reporting to CTC, the Chairman said CTC would continue discussions with the other two sanctions committees on how best to address reporting issues in a coordinated manner. CTC decided to further identify assistance needs in the process of evaluating States' reports. It would continue discussions on meeting requests made,

including by further developing cooperation with potential donors. Regarding the need to provide clarity and transparency on what it took to implement resolution 1373(2001), CTC discussed the usefulness of developing best practices to guide States. In that regard, it welcomed work already done by international, regional and subregional organizations.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 July [meeting 5229], following consultations among Security Council members, the Council President made statement **S/PRST/2005/34** on behalf of the Council:

The Security 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 motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. The Council reiterates its condemnation of the Al-Qaida network and other terrorist groups for ongoing and multiple criminal terrorist acts, aimed at causing death and destruction of property, and undermining stability. The Council also reaffirms that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and recalls its grave concern about the risk posed by non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The Council reiterates its call upon all Member States to become parties to all 12 international conventions against terrorism, and in this context draws attention to the treaty event being held in New York in September, and encourages Member States to take that opportunity also to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The Council calls upon Member States to cooperate on an expedited basis to resolve all outstanding issues, with a view to adopting the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The Council urges all States to cooperate to bring to justice, in accordance with the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of acts of terrorism. Recent events, as condemned by the Council in its resolution 1611(2005) and the statement by its President of 8 July 2005, stress the urgency and necessity of redoubling efforts to combat terrorism.

The Council welcomes the briefings by the Chairmen of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267(1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) on counter-terrorism and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), on the work of the three Committees. The Council reaffirms the importance and the urgency it attaches to the implementation of the provisions of the resolutions relevant to the three Committees, as well as to

the fulfilment of the mandates of the three Committees. The Council therefore strongly encourages Member States as well as the respective Committees to redouble their efforts to seek ways to further strengthen the implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373(2001) and 1540(2004), in accordance with the provisions of these and other relevant resolutions.

The Council reaffirms its call for enhanced cooperation among the three Committees, as well as their respective group of experts, in monitoring implementation by States of the provisions of the relevant Council resolutions, with due respect for their different mandates, including through enhanced information sharing, coordinated response to late submission of reports by States to the three Committees, and other issues of relevance to the three Committees. The Council also invites the three Committees to continue cooperation with the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566(2004).

The Council urges Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the provisions of the resolutions relevant to the work of the three Committees. While reaffirming that the responsibility for implementing the provisions of these resolutions rests with the States, the Council encourages States to seek the necessary assistance to ensure that the necessary capacity to implement the resolutions is available.

The Council reiterates that relevant international, regional and subregional organizations can play a crucial role in supporting the goals of these resolutions, raising awareness of their importance, and helping their members implement them. The Council encourages such organizations, as or when proposed by the relevant Committee, where appropriate, to provide the necessary technical assistance. Moreover, the Council encourages its Counter-Terrorism Committee, its Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee, and, when appropriate its Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), as well as relevant organizations, to enhance cooperation with a view to identifying, promoting, and developing, as appropriate, best practices to provide clarity and guidance to States on the implementation of the provisions of the relevant resolutions.

The Council encourages Member States in a position to do so to make technical assistance available on a priority basis.

The Council invites the three Committees to continue reporting on their activities at regular intervals and, where appropriate, in a coordinated manner.

Report of CTC Chairman (October). The CTC Chairman, at the Council's 26 October meeting [meeting 5293], reported that CTED was fully staffed and urged States to take advantage of the resources available and request the assistance needed to further their counter-terrorism efforts. Over the past three months, the Committee's priorities were: engaging with regional organizations that had developed a counter-terrorism agenda; clearing the backlog of reports from States; continuing to examine ways to better facilitate technical assistance; continuation of

visits to States; enhancing dialogue and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, through their involvement in the CTC visits to States and by engaging them to help strengthen the Committee's capacity to promote the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) among other things; taking steps to ensure follow-up to Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) (see p. 102) on incitement of terrorism adopted at the Council's summit meeting in September; and engaging in policy discussions aimed at giving CTED the guidance foreseen in the revitalization documents.

Specifically, CTC and its CTED were ready to guide and assist international and regional organizations, and would make greater efforts to reach out to them. CTC encouraged those organizations to consider ways to enhance their bilateral cooperation in order to assist each other in developing their counter-terrorism agenda. It would also consider how to follow up on the latest special meeting (see p. 108) with international, regional and subregional groups and on how to approach future meetings in order to ensure their usefulness to everyone concerned.

Regarding the elimination of the backlog of reports from States on their implementation of resolution 1373(2001), the Committee examined ways of updating the reporting regime, including ensuring that all aspects of resolution 1373(2001) were included in future dialogues with States. It would also discuss with other related Council committees ways to jointly address the claim of reporting fatigue in the light of the World Summit's call for the Council to consider streamlining its reporting procedure (see p. 48).

In terms of assistance needs, the Committee assessed requirements and obtained agreement to share its findings with potential donors for 25 States. It also started sharing the needs assessments with the Counter-Terrorism Action Group. CTC intended to strengthen its dialogue with States to determine what each one needed in order to reach agreement on such needs and to stress the importance of achieving them. In that process, CTC would also enhance its cooperation with relevant international organizations and examine how its dialogue with potential donors could become more result-oriented.

The Committee would continue its discussions on ways to provide transparent guidance on the implementation of resolution 1373(2001) through the development of best practices and on how a human rights perspective might be incorporated into the Committee's policy and substantive work, while respecting the various aspects of its Council mandate. In that regard, the Committee intended to take steps to prepare for the

Council's comprehensive review of CTED, in line with resolution 1535(2004).

Comprehensive review of CTC Executive Directorate

On 15 December [S/2005/800], the CTC Chairman submitted the Committee's report for consideration by the Security Council, as part of its comprehensive review of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The review, requested by the Council in resolution 1535(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 79], by which CTED was created, assessed the Directorate's assistance to CTC, particularly in attaining the goals of the revitalization process set out in the CTC Chairman's 2004 report to the Council [ibid.]. It also reviewed the extent to which both the mandate and functioning of CTED would enable it best to fulfil that role in the future.

CTC stated that, as CTED only became fully staffed in September, it had not had the full benefit of CTED's expertise, thus making the results of the review not as comprehensive as intended. During that time, however, it had provided CTC with valuable support. CTC recommended that the Council clarify CTED's reporting lines, within the framework of Council resolution 1535(2004) and indicate its readiness to work with the Secretary-General on the matter. CTC agreed to develop policy guidance in all key areas of CTED's mandate, to update that guidance as necessary and to review it annually. CTC agreed on the need for CTED to develop and carry out implementation plans for each area of policy guidance, with clear objectives and targets, within an appropriate time line. Progress towards the objectives of the policy guidance would form part of CTC's quarterly reports to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1373(2001).

CTED, whose guiding principles were cooperation, transparency, even-handedness and consistency of approach, would have as its future focus high-priority areas such as: providing in-depth analysis of the implementation of resolution 1373(2001); enhancing dialogue with States, through a more tailored approach to their individual circumstances, including through letters, direct dialogue and more flexibility regarding visits; reviewing and proposing ways to update the reporting regime and taking into account the 2005 World Summit Outcome recommendation, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/1 (see p. 48), on consolidating reporting requirements in cooperation with other Security Council counter-terrorism-related subsidiary bodies; close cooperation with other relevant Council subsidiary bodies, particularly the Security Council Committees established pursuant to res-

olutions 1267(1999) and 1540(2004), including on information-sharing, visits and technical assistance; continuing effective capacity-building work, through strengthening the facilitation of technical assistance, with a view to creating measurable results to enable more States to receive the assistance needed to further their implementation of resolution 1373(2001); improving the assistance provided to Member States through publishing and developing best practices in all areas of resolution 1373 (2001); and reviewing and proposing how to further develop cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance the synergy between their work and that of the Committee in furthering the implementation of resolution 1373(2001).

The Committee reaffirmed its responsibility to include the implementation of Council resolution 1624(2005) in its dialogue with Member States and resolve to help build capacity in that regard, including through spreading best legal practices and promoting the exchange of information. It recommended that the Security Council request that another comprehensive review of CTED be prepared by CTC by 31 December 2006.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 5338], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/64** on behalf of the Council:

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

The Council recalls its resolution 1535(2004), by which it decided to establish the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (hereinafter "CTED") as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) to enhance the ability of the Committee to monitor implementation of resolution 1373(2001) and effectively continue the capacity-building work in which it was engaged. At the same time, the Council decided to carry out a comprehensive review of CTED by 31 December 2005.

During today's consultations, the Council undertook this review and came to the following conclusions:

The Council endorsed the report prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and forwarded to the Council, and agreed with the conclusions contained therein.

The Council noted that CTED had only been fully staffed since 6 September 2005 and welcomed the start that CTED had made on its objectives as set out in the revitalization process. It welcomed the fact that

the Counter-Terrorism Committee, in consultation with the Secretary-General, had decided to declare CTED operational on 15 December 2005.

The Council recalled that the mandate of CTED flows from that of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and reaffirmed that the Committee has the sole responsibility for providing policy guidance to CTED. It also welcomed the fact that such guidance would be accompanied by implementation plans to enhance the ability of the Committee to effectively implement its mandate.

The Council agreed with the Secretary-General and with the Counter-Terrorism Committee that there was a need to clarify CTED's reporting lines, within the framework of resolution 1535(2004), and welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative in this regard. The Council expressed its readiness to work with him on this matter.

The Council welcomed the integration into the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the issue of implementation by Member States of resolution 1624(2005).

The Council decided to carry out another comprehensive review of CTED by 31 December 2006, prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

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 implement resolution 1373(2001) and letters from the Committee requesting follow-up information: [S/2005/33-34, S/2005/61-63, S/2005/70-71, S/2005/90-95 & Add.1, S/2005/107-123, S/2005/161-166, S/2005/191-194, S/2005/213, S/2005/224-225, S/2005/231, S/2005/239, S/2005/255-260, S/2005/264-265 & Add.1, S/2005/276-277, S/2005/286-296, S/2005/347, S/2005/366-367, S/2005/370, S/2005/425, S/2005/441-443, S/2005/445, S/2005/455-456, S/2005/461, S/2005/466, S/2005/479, S/2005/481-484, S/2005/501-502 & Add.1, S/2005/516-519, S/2005/524, S/2005/551, S/2005/573, S/2005/583, S/2005/595, S/2005/671, S/2005/705, S/2005/822 & Corr.1-823, S/2005/846].

Action by Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its fourteenth session (23-27 May) [E/2005/30], recommended to the Economic and Social Council for approval a draft resolution 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 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime". That resolution was approved by the Council as **resolution 2005/19** (see p. 1232).

IAEA action

The General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), at its forty-ninth session (Vienna, Austria, 26-30 September) (see p. 1563), adopted resolution GC(49)/RES/10 on measures to protect against nuclear terrorism, in which it called for an early entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 59/290 of 13 April (see p. 1411). It also called on the Director-General to continue to implement Agency activities relevant to nuclear and radiological security and protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Peacekeeping operations

In 2005, the General Assembly and the Security Council continued to oversee the management and operation of UN peacekeeping missions. The Council addressed key issues aimed at strengthening and streamlining the overall conduct of those operations, reviewed the mandates of several ongoing operations and created new ones to deal with new security concerns. The Assembly took action on a number of financial and administrative matters. In December, acting in concurrence with the Council, the Assembly established the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

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

General aspects of UN peacekeeping

Military information management in peacekeeping operations

In November [A/60/596], the Secretary-General transmitted the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the review of the effectiveness of military information management in UN peacekeeping operations. OIOS assessed the effectiveness of information management by the military component of peacekeeping operations in terms of reducing operational and security risks and enhancing mission performance. It also and examined DPKO's information management capability and effectiveness in mis-

sion planning and performance. The report addressed, in particular, the role of information management in contemporary peacekeeping, its organization, inter-mission information flow and management, backstopping support for information management, promotion of organizational learning and best practice, and the use of information technology.

OIOS found that the requirement for information management existed in all peacekeeping missions, but the size and composition of the management entity varied depending on the mandate, size of force and structure of the mission. Observing that information flow in peacekeeping appeared to be an excessively complex and tangled network, OIOS stated that mission-wide collaboration was essential for information management. It noted DPKO's efforts to simplify the flow of information in peacekeeping by establishing integrated central information collation and processing centres at the mission level by conceptualizing a Joint Mission Analysis Cell (JMAC) as a multidisciplinary entity analysing information from all sources and providing strategic information and assessments to senior mission management. A JMAC type organization had already been established in seven missions and DPKO had established a working group to develop a policy for the concept and structure of JMACs.

Regarding capacity for effective information management, OIOS found that in most peacekeeping operations staff functions at force headquarters did not have any specific order of battle, knowledge, experience or adequate skills for using the products of overt information management for tactical and strategic purposes. In the opinion of OIOS, the reluctance of the United Nations to acknowledge intelligence operations as an operational and strategic resource had limited staff functions to their most basic and generic tasks, preventing key mission staff from employing intelligence as a vital component and virtual substitute for the use of force, manpower and time.

OIOS therefore recommended that DPKO establish an integrated information management system, such as a JMAC, in all multidimensional peacekeeping operations and develop strategic guidance, relevant policies and guidelines for JMACs, with system-wide uniform application. The function and role of a JMAC should be distinct from that of the military information cell/force G2 branch (military information cell) as a mission-level asset for strategic information support. DPKO should review the field policy and guide peacekeeping operations to develop a specific order of battle and standard operating procedures. It should also develop clear guidelines

for the recruitment and selection of civilian and military staff to JMAC and the force G2 branch and a standardized training module for in-mission training; provide clear guidance to missions on the interface between JMAC and the public information officer in the framework of mission information management; and develop guidelines for integrating the functions of the military public information officer and the public information officer.

DPKO should further provide field missions with the requisite human, technical and financial resources to bolster, through publications and radio broadcasts, the mission's public information outreach and generate goodwill; institutionalize mechanisms for troop-contributing countries to communicate vital information inputs that could impact operational decisions; issue directives and guidelines for establishing and operating joint mission information management committees in regions where there was a UN regional office for information-sharing between field missions; and develop an institutional capacity for backstopping field missions by strengthening the monitoring and assessment capacity in the Situation Centre or the Current Military Operations Service. It should also develop mission-tailored packages containing templates, draft standard operating procedures, standard database formats and sample documents on information management; a compendium of best practices and lessons learned in information management; and a policy for providing technological support for information collection and for enhancing mission capacity for information analysis and synthesis. DPKO should provide a capability to perform and produce geographical and terrain analysis and to manage digital/analog geographic data, and review policies on communications monitoring and electronic countermeasures to enhance security and improve mission preparedness to deal with unexpected situations.

Military involvement in civil assistance in peacekeeping operations

In December [A/60/588], the Secretary-General transmitted the OIOS report on the review of military involvement in civil assistance in peacekeeping operations. The report focused on support provided to humanitarian activities by the military components of peacekeeping operations at the request of humanitarian organizations and agencies, and community support projects (CSPs) conducted. It addressed the coordination of such assistance with overall mission objectives and the enhancement of its effectiveness and efficiency.

OIOS found that, in addition to providing security, civil assistance had become a common activity of the military component in all missions, which led to the broadening of contemporary peacekeeping mandates in the context of multi-dimensional peace operations. While support for humanitarian activities was provided on request, CSPs were generally initiated and carried out by the military component itself. However, without a coherent and comprehensive approach to planning and strategy, coordination, guidance and support, continued improvisation would hamper the capacity of military components to support humanitarian activities and local communities. The current weaknesses in guidance to contingents on CSPs in missions, combined with disappointing feedback from humanitarian organizations and agencies regarding the efforts of military components to support local communities needed to be addressed in order to maximize the benefits of cooperation and synergy in the field. OIOS was confident that the results of discussions on integrated missions and civil-military coordination in missions, especially between DPKO and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), would be translated into clear instructions for military components in the near future. The next challenge was to build on the experience gained by military components supporting humanitarian activities and to pursue changes that addressed military involvement in civil assistance throughout the stages of a peacebuilding operation beyond the humanitarian emergency phase. Such efforts would equally require a comprehensive approach that took into account implications for planning, strategy, coordination, guidance and support.

OIOS recommended that DPKO ensure that, in mission planning, opportunities for military support to humanitarian organizations and agencies were identified and considered, in consultation with relevant partners; that mission-level planning documents included a strategy for CSPs that took into account the needs of the population on the ground and overall mission objectives; provide missions with guidance for coordinating CSPs and quick-impact projects; and review with OCHA the terms of reference and structural location of civilian officers responsible for civil-military coordination in missions to enhance their effectiveness and avoid duplication.

It also recommended that peacekeeping operations should inform humanitarian organizations and agencies in the mission area to submit their requests for military support to a specific point of contact, which would prioritize such requests from a humanitarian perspective and forward them to the military component for action,

and that such points should be established for different levels of command or different areas within the mission. DPKO should also promulgate its revised policy on civil-military coordination and ensure that it was fully reflected in all other relevant guidance material and served as the basis for the preparation of a generic standard operating procedure.

DPKO should complement the terms of reference for quick-impact projects with additional instructions on the preparation of mission-specific strategies and on their management, implementation and evaluation; advise missions, in consultation with OCHA, about their point of contact for advice on military involvement in civil assistance; and ensure that an adequate number of qualified personnel and a sufficient amount of support equipment were provided to missions for an effective civil-military coordination function at force, sector headquarters and contingent levels; update the generic training module on civil-military coordination contained in the standard generic training module level 1 to include more detail on the role of the military component in implementing CSPs and quick-impact projects, and the standard training module level 3 to include a separate module on civil-military coordination.

DPKO said that it agreed with and supported each recommendation and was already taking steps to implement some of them, which could form a support basis for some of its policy initiatives.

Operational capacity of UN military observers

In its report on the review of the operational capacity of UN Military Observers (UNMOs), transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in April [A/59/764], OIOS noted that UNMOs played a crucial role in peacekeeping operations, which had evolved from monitoring compliance with ceasefire agreements to more complex tasks, including governance, humanitarian and human rights issues. However, the complexity of the environment and those new tasks did not appear to result in a commensurate revision of UNMOs role and operational modalities. OIOS reviewed the operational capacity of UNMOs, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency in the context of multi-dimensional peacekeeping, focusing on command and control, selection and training, deployment, rotation and repatriation, use of advanced technology and administrative and logistics support. It also examined UNMO's role in missions vis-à-vis the armed contingents and how that effected their security and safety, and their

cooperation and coordination with other mission components.

In terms of command and control, OIOS noted that, among the 13 missions with UNMOs, four different organizational structures were used: in the first structure, the Chief Military Observer (CMO) exercised full operational authority over the UNMOs; in the second, there was a separate chain of command for UNMOs who reported directly to the head of mission; the third followed the principle of “unity of command” with all military units under the operational authority of the Force Commander; and the fourth reflected a greater integration in UNMOs into the command and control chain of the contingent force. Among the difficulties reported were the lack of an effective flow of information in some missions, and the physical separation of the UNMOs chain of command from that of armed contingents resulting in structural restrictions for coordination at the lower tactical levels. OIOS believed that, to ensure effective integration, there should be a common communications plan and standard operating and reporting procedures, with priority given to a single and unified chain of command.

In the area of selection and training, the most pressing challenges were the different levels of military skills, training and experience of team members, language proficiency, driving, radio communications and map-reading skills.

Regarding safety and security, UNMOs were normally unarmed in forward locations, making them vulnerable to attack, hostage-taking and harassment. Their most common concerns were the availability of safe, reliable and efficient communications and their deployment to remote locations in small numbers, where they had to make independent arrangements for accommodation within local communities, which posed a major security risk.

OIOS also found that disruptions in cooperation and coordination between military units in general, and UNMOs and armed contingents in particular, often resulted from the lack of common understanding of their respective roles in the mission.

To improve the overall operational effectiveness of UNMOs in peacekeeping operations, OIOS recommended that DPKO develop a more generic and streamlined command and control structure for its peacekeeping missions with UNMOs and armed contingents that allowed effective integration of UNMOs at the Force Headquarters level through a single unified chain of command, while maintaining operational independence at sector and lower levels. It should also develop a mechanism that ensured that UNMOs attended a recognized military observers’ course at a na-

tional peacekeeping training centre prior to deployment; a system that helped identify troop-contributing countries that provided UNMOs who consistently performed poorly and recommended steps that improved standards and ensured compliance, and encouraged greater participation of female UNMOs in peacekeeping missions. DPKO should explore the use of a standby roster for improving its initial deployment of UNMOs, develop a system for staggering their arrival, rotation and repatriation, streamline the induction and checkout procedures, and develop a comprehensive security plan for UNMOs to help ensure that they operated within range of the VHF/HF communications systems of the armed contingents and were provided with armed escorts. Armed contingents should maintain a quick reaction team, with stand-by ground-to-air communications in each sector for response to emergency extraction/evacuation situations. Mission directives should emphasize that the responsibility for the security of UNMOs rested with the armed contingents, and UNMOs should be provided with a distinct identity to distinguish them from armed contingents in order to emphasize their unarmed status.

Mission plans should include an effective information reporting structure and a comprehensive communications plan to facilitate effective integration of UNMOs with other mission components. Proficient translators/interpreters should be made available to UNMO teams as required and each mission should have an exit strategy for UNMOs that built on established benchmarks and links with the post-peacekeeping phase. DPKO should also establish a focal point in the Military Adviser’s office for UNMO policy issues.

HIV/AIDS and international peacekeeping operations

On 18 July [meeting 5228], the Security Council considered the question of HIV/AIDS in international peacekeeping operations. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, in briefing the Council on the subject, said that, since the adoption of resolution 1308(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 82] on the impact of AIDS on peace and security, a comprehensive strategy had been developed to reduce the risk of peacekeepers contracting or transmitting the virus while on mission. The key elements of that strategy were: the creation of specific mission capacity to address AIDS; ensuring the availability of condoms and observing universal medical precautions; developing voluntary counselling and testing capacities in missions; establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and setting up projects for outreach to local communities

and mainstreaming the issue of AIDS into mission mandates. In terms of progress achieved in those areas, there were currently 10 AIDS advisers, compared to just four in 2000 deployed at major peacekeeping operations, supported by United Nations Volunteers and host country professionals, and focal points in the smaller missions. Since awareness-training was central to the strategy, DPKO was working closely with troop-contributing countries and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to establish at least a basic level of AIDS awareness among all those working in peacekeeping operations and AIDS awareness-training was routinely included in all “train the trainer” courses, in military observer programmes and in other sessions organized and sponsored by DPKO to enhance national peacekeeping capabilities. AIDS awareness-training was also central to pre-deployment training for mission-specific personnel and formed part of induction training for all civilian personnel. The AIDS training module was revised to ensure that the issues of gender, codes of conduct and sexual abuse were fully reflected.

As the strategy also aimed at reinforcing support for AIDS prevention and mobilizing all DPKO personnel to deal with it, AIDS was high on the agenda of the conference of all force commanders and would continue to be part of the senior leadership training for those serving in peacekeeping operations. Training modules were tailored for specific occupational groups, such as public information officers and stress counsellors serving in the most difficult missions.

To assess the effectiveness of the training programmes, DPKO piloted an HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitude and practice survey in Liberia (May/June), in collaboration with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNAIDS, involving over 660 uniformed peacekeepers. The preliminary findings showed that awareness was generally high, with over 87 per cent of those in a mission for at least one month having received AIDS-awareness training since their arrival. However, only a small number had received training from within their battalions or detachments, and less than 2 per cent had been briefed on AIDS by their commanding officers while in the mission area.

To create greater capacity among peacekeepers, AIDS advisers conducted peer education programmes, drawing on UNAIDS peer education kit and awareness cards. UNAIDS and DPKO were also examining ways to create a network to maintain the capacity of peer educators when they returned home. The survey showed that of the peacekeepers surveyed, over 92 per cent were

tested for HIV as part of their preparation for deployment. DPKO's efforts focused not only on how to reduce the risk of HIV transmission, but also on how to capitalize on the positive potential of peacekeepers as agents of change.

Despite the lessons learned over the past five years, answers were still required to ascertain whether enough was done, whether the basic strategy was the right one and what additional investments were needed to sustain and strengthen those efforts.

The UNAIDS Executive Director, Peter Piot, reporting to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1308(2000), said that, in response to resolution 1308(2000), an Office on AIDS, Security and Humanitarian Response was established in the UNAIDS secretariat, with support from Denmark. Some one million AIDS-awareness cards were distributed in 13 languages through peacekeepers and national security forces, and a peer education kit, available in 11 languages, had become an integral part of the military training curricula in several troop-contributing countries. With the increasing focus on regional troop and mission management for peacekeeping, UNAIDS was engaged with key regional bodies and was supporting the African Union (AU) with its AIDS programmes for AU peacekeeping forces. UNAIDS was also working with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Caribbean Community secretariat in developing comprehensive AIDS programmes for uniformed services.

UNAIDS was assisting 53 Member States with comprehensive programmes to address AIDS among uniformed services, and had signed formal partnership agreements with 15 ministries of defence, covering about 1.3 million active uniformed personnel. For the future, two great tasks related to AIDS and security had to be faced: expanding the knowledge of the broader impact of AIDS on human security and national stability in the most-affected countries and those in conflict and post-conflict situations; and dealing with classic security matters. The unstated goal underpinning resolution 1308(2000) that all peacekeepers and uniformed personnel be given the knowledge and means to protect themselves and others from HIV had not yet been achieved. The Executive Director expressed the hope that the Council would make that an explicit and time-bound goal and ensure that peacekeeping missions were given the means to meet their responsibilities with respect to HIV, and that they were held accountable for their performance in responding to AIDS.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 July [meeting 5228], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/33** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1308(2000). The Council also recalls the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on 27 June 2001.

The Council welcomes the collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors to address HIV/AIDS awareness among peacekeeping personnel, both uniformed and civilian. The Council commends the Joint Programme for developing, in cooperation with interested States, national programmes to address HIV/AIDS among their uniformed personnel. The Council recognizes the significant number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the programmes worldwide.

The Council recognizes that men and women in the uniformed services are vital elements in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Council welcomes the efforts by Member States, including through existing national programmes, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Joint Programme and other stakeholders, to counter the spread of the disease. The Council encourages Member States, in the preparation of their personnel for participation in peacekeeping operations, to employ best practices in HIV/AIDS education, prevention, awareness, countering stigma and discrimination, voluntary confidential counselling and testing, and care and treatment.

The Council also recognizes that United Nations peacekeeping personnel can be important contributors to the response to HIV/AIDS, particularly for vulnerable communities in post-conflict environments. The Council welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations peacekeeping missions to integrate HIV/AIDS awareness in their mandated activities and outreach projects for vulnerable communities and urges them to pay particular attention to the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS. In this context, the Council encourages further cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Joint Programme and its co-sponsors, non-governmental organizations and civil society, bilateral and multilateral donors and national Governments.

The Council further recognizes that significant progress has been made in implementation of resolution 1308(2000) but that many challenges remain. The Council expresses its readiness to further promote and support the implementation of this resolution. In order to maintain and consolidate momentum, the Council welcomes regular briefings, as needed, by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Joint Programme on the progress made, as a measure to strengthen commitment and accountability at the highest levels and ensure sustained monitoring and evaluation of the impact of programmes. The Council reaffirms its intention to

contribute, within its competence, to the attainment of the relevant objectives in the Declaration adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly in carrying out the Council's work, in particular in its follow-up to resolution 1308(2000).

Sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations

OIOS report. On 5 January [A/59/661], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the investigation into numerous allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse of Congolese women and girls by UN peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (see p. 165). OIOS found that many of the 72 allegations originally reported could not be substantiated or even fully investigated because of their non-specific nature. It, however, compiled 20 case reports, 19 of which involved peacekeepers from three contingents. Six cases were fully substantiated, in two others, the identification of the perpetrator was not fully corroborated, and in the 11 remaining cases, the victims and witnesses were unable to clearly identify the perpetrators. OIOS therefore made a number of recommendations for corrective actions.

Special Committee consideration (January/February). The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (New York, 31 January–25 February) [A/59/19/Rev.1], expressed outrage at the large number of alleged sexual misconduct by military and civilian personnel at MONUC. The Special Committee felt that the issue needed to be viewed within a broader and systemic context and, in that respect, recommended a comprehensive and balanced approach to the problem. It emphasized the need for reinforced efforts and measures by the United Nations and Member States to ensure that military, civilian police and civilian personnel in UN peacekeeping missions were fully aware of their duties and obligations.

The Special Committee supported the Secretary-General's efforts to address the problem, and the need to strengthen the implementation of UN zero tolerance policy and standards of conduct, in order to provide clear and effective guidelines for all Member States contributing military, civilian police and personnel. The Special Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report with recommendations on the issue by April, following which it would reconvene to review the report and submit its findings for consideration by the

Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee and the General Assembly.

The Assembly, in resolution 59/281 (see p. 129), endorsed the Special Committee's recommendations.

Report of Adviser to Secretary-General. On 24 March [A/59/710], the Secretary-General, in response to the Special Committee's request, submitted the report of his Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel, His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan), entitled "A comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations". The report discussed the problem under four main themes: the rules on standards of conduct; the investigative process; organizational, managerial and command responsibility; and individual disciplinary, financial and criminal accountability. It stated that in 2003, DPKO had investigated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse implicating five staff and 19 military personnel. The Secretariat was aware that the data gathered on those cases might not reflect the true extent of those incidents; the complaint procedures and victim support mechanisms were not adequate; and a system for systematically reporting misconduct was required. Following improvements in the Organization's complaint mechanism, the number of allegations received against peacekeeping personnel increased significantly. In 2004, DPKO received 105 allegations, 16 of which were against civilians, 9 against civilian police and 80 against military personnel. Forty-five per cent of those allegations related to sex with persons under 18 years of age, 31 per cent with adult prostitutes, while rape and sexual assault comprised 13 and 5 per cent, respectively. The remaining 6 per cent was related to other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, as defined in the Secretary-General's bulletin on the subject [YUN 2004, p. 107].

The report noted that efforts to address the problem were ad hoc and inadequate, and a radical change was needed in the way it was addressed in peacekeeping contexts. During the Adviser's visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), women's organizations drew attention to several external factors they believed contributed to the problem, including the erosion of the social fabric by the ongoing conflict, the lack of income-generation possibilities, the high incidence of sexual violence against women and children during the conflict, discrimination, exploitative behaviour against them, and the lack of a well-functioning legal and judicial system, thereby encouraging impunity. On the other hand, MONUC personnel seemed to share a per-

ception that little was being done to deal effectively with the problem, and that whistle-blowers would not be protected. There was little awareness of UN standards of conduct, inadequate recreational facilities and protracted periods of separation from families and communities.

Regarding the Organization's rules, the report concluded that the difficulty of dealing with sexual exploitation and abuse was compounded by the many categories of personnel in a mission, each governed by different rules. However, although the responsibility for the conduct and discipline of troops rested with troop-contributing countries, the Assembly should apply the rules set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to all categories of UN peacekeeping personnel. Those standards, as well as those set out in the publications entitled "Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets" and "We Are United Nations Peacekeepers", should be included in each memorandum of understanding signed with each troop-contributing country, whose obligation should be to ensure that those rules were binding on their national contingents. The rules should also be readily available to all members of a peacekeeping mission, including in card form and in the languages of the various contingents.

Concerning investigations into alleged sexual exploitation and abuse conducted by the Organization, the report recommended that a permanent professional mechanism be established to investigate complex cases of serious misconduct in that regard. An expert in military law should participate in any investigation to ensure that evidence was gathered in accordance with national law. Troop-contributing countries should share information obtained through its contingent's investigations and hold on-site courts martial to facilitate access to witnesses and evidence in the peacekeeping area. Those countries whose legislation did not so permit should consider reforming their legislation.

In relation to organizational, managerial and command accountability, a series of measures were recommended, including extensive training, an effective programme of outreach to the local community, a data collection system to track the investigation and resolution of allegations and the establishment of full-time positions at Headquarters and in the field to coordinate action by missions on those issues. Mission-specific measures were also recommended to deal with the problem and to help make life at the missions less difficult. In addition, the United Nations should offer basic assistance to alleged victims.

There should be strict disciplinary accountability for peacekeeping personnel who violated the Organization's rules relating to sexual exploitation and abuse, and in that context, the Assembly should define acts of sexual exploitation and abuse as serious misconduct in the Staff Regulations and request the Secretary-General to introduce expedited procedures to deal with such cases. Troop-contributing countries should also endeavour to bring implicated members of their contingent to justice.

UN peacekeeping personnel should be held financially accountable for harm caused to victims as a result of their acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. In particular, the Assembly should authorize DNA and other tests to establish paternity and obligate peacekeeping personnel to provide financial support to so-called peacekeeper babies. The model memorandum of understanding should require troop-contributing countries to ensure that their contingents respected local law and to exercise criminal jurisdiction over their troops. The Secretary-General should appoint a group of experts to advise on the feasibility of drafting an international instrument or the use of other means to ensure that UN personnel were subject to criminal prosecution for defined crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Special Committee consideration (April). The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its resumed session (New York, 4-8 April) [A/59/19/Rev.1], having considered the report of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser (see above), recognized the shared responsibility of the Secretariat and Member States in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by all categories of personnel in UN peacekeeping missions and in enforcing UN standards of conduct. The Special Committee was committed to implementing fundamental, systematic changes as a matter of urgency and adopted a number of recommendations, which were without prejudice to the right of troop-contributing countries to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over their own contingents.

The Special Committee welcomed the standards set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and recommended that the Assembly endorse them for all categories of UN peacekeeping personnel. The Secretary-General should issue the standards in a manner convenient to troop-contributing countries, in the languages of contingent members and in UN official languages. DPKO should provide training on the requisite standards of conduct, particularly on the detailed prohibitions in the Secretary-General's bulletin.

The Special Committee urged the full integration of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in efforts to encourage the reporting of abuse and to promote an environment that discouraged such acts. It highlighted the need for welfare and recreational services to be made available to all categories of personnel in peacekeeping missions. In that regard, the Secretary-General should carry out a comprehensive review, including a cost-benefit analysis, of welfare and recreational needs. That should also include: a review of the rules on rest and recreation and the classification of duty stations as family or non-family for UN civilian staff; the need for welfare officers and stress counsellors; the development of minimum standards of welfare and recreational facilities for all categories of personnel; and the effectiveness of the system of welfare payments. Related proposals should be made to the Assembly's sixtieth (2005) session.

The Secretary-General should establish a data collection and management system at Headquarters and in the field to track allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and responses of missions to those allegations, which should ensure that prior offenders were not rehired, and track non-specific allegations since they might indicate a problem requiring managerial response.

The Special Committee recommended: the strengthening of DPKO's capacity to address all cases of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, provide prompt advice to missions, ensure the coherent application of UN procedures, and provide guidance and advice for all categories of civilian and uniformed personnel; measures to protect persons disclosing sexual exploitation and abuse from intimidation; and the establishment of a professional and independent investigative capacity to investigate alleged sexual exploitation and abuse and other allegations of misconduct of a similar grave nature. DPKO, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, should establish an effective outreach programme to explain the Organization's policy relating to sexual exploitation and abuse, and effective mechanisms to allow individuals to make related complaints in a confidential setting. DPKO should also provide feedback to alleged victims on the outcome of their complaints and of the mission's investigation, giving due regard to the privacy laws of Member States.

The Secretary-General should provide the Special Committee, at its 2006 session, with a comprehensive strategy for assisting victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, including financial compensation. In the meantime, missions should provide emergency assistance to victims

within mission budgets. Staff Regulations and contracts with United Nations Volunteers, consultants and individual contractors should be amended to specifically provide that acts of sexual exploitation and abuse constituted serious misconduct.

The Special Committee, noting that the report of the Secretary-General's Adviser included recommendations on the content of the model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries, said it was informed that the model, which was last reported to the Assembly in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 55], had not been adopted as a basis for negotiation with individual troop-contributing countries. The Committee therefore recommended that the Secretary-General prepare a revised draft model memorandum of understanding, and submit it to the Special Committee for consideration in 2006.

The Secretary-General should appoint a group of legal experts to prepare and submit to the Assembly at its sixtieth (2005) session, a comprehensive report providing advice on: the best way to ensure that the original intent of the Charter would be achieved, namely that UN staff and experts on missions would not be effectively exempted from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized, in accordance with due process; whether, and if so, how, the standards in the Secretary-General's bulletin could bind contingent members in the period prior to the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding or other agreement or action by a troop-contributing country that incorporated those standards under its national law; and to study and propose ways of standardizing the norms of conduct applicable to all categories of peacekeeping personnel, paying particular attention to the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse. He should also provide a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations as part of his annual report to the Special Committee at its next regular (2006) session.

Security Council consideration. On 31 May [meeting 5191], the Security Council considered the reports of the Special Committee and the Secretary-General's Adviser on the subject. In his briefing to the Council, the Secretary-General's Adviser said that it was well known that, in the early 1960s, the United Nations Operation in the Congo had faced difficulties relating to discipline of some of its personnel, and since 1989, similar reports had surfaced in practically every subsequent mission. Over the past 60 years, Member States had refrained from opening that subject to public discourse because of pride and a

deep sense of embarrassment, which only produced outright denials. Not only were abuses by peacekeepers repugnant, they struck at the credibility of the operation in question and the Organization as a whole. In order to overcome those difficulties, Member States had to resolve to recognize the truth openly, however painful that might be. While highlighting actions being taken to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee, the Secretary-General's Adviser indicated that it would be prudent to expect that further allegations could emerge in the future due to the Secretariat's strengthening of the system for lodging complaints. DPKO and OIOS would continue to coordinate on developing a standing procedure for launching investigations, and the relationship between OIOS and troop-contributing countries on investigations would need further refinement. The Adviser expressed hope that in 2006, the Special Committee would take up those recommendations and ideas in his report that were not addressed at its resumed session. He intended to propose again the holding of in-mission courts martial for the worst offences.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, told the Council that combating sexual exploitation and abuse was one of DPKO's highest priorities and it had made significant progress in investigating related allegations and putting in place wide-ranging measures to prevent the problem. Over the past year, field missions had instituted numerous measures to prevent misconduct and enforce UN standards of conduct, such as providing training on aspects of those standards relating to sexual exploitation and abuse at missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone and there were plans to make such training mandatory for all peacekeeping personnel arriving at missions. In 2004, DPKO issued a policy on human trafficking that was accompanied by a resource manual on the issue and included a training module and practical guidance for peacekeeping operations. In early 2005, awareness-raising posters on sexual exploitation and abuse and brochures on human trafficking were distributed to all missions.

Citing the Secretary-General's 9 February letter to the Council [S/2005/79], Mr. Guéhenno noted that MONUC had put in place mission-specific measures to minimize misconduct and was strengthening managerial accountability by requiring regional heads of office to prepare workplans for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. At Headquarters, DPKO had established a task force to develop guidance and tools for peacekeeping operations to address sexual

exploitation and abuse effectively, and was co-chairing, with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, an inter-agency task force aimed at developing an organizational culture throughout the UN system that prevented such acts. It was also developing common policies and guidance on victim assistance. The Department was cooperating closely with OIOS to develop suggestions for discussion with troop-contributing countries on how to facilitate their participation in OIOS investigations involving military peacekeeping personnel.

In 2005, DPKO reported 340 new allegations of which 217 were against uniformed personnel (involving 193 military and 24 civilian police officers), while about 123 were against civilian staff. Eighty allegations involved UN staff and 42 were related to other UN civilian personnel, which included individual contractors, consultants, Junior Professional Officers and UN Volunteers. With regard to cases involving DPKO and other civilian personnel, as at December, four allegations were deemed as requiring no further action and 68 were investigated, 33 of which were sent to Headquarters for disciplinary action, 1 was pending investigation, 14 were substantiated and four were unsubstantiated. Sixteen cases involving civilian personnel were sent to Boards of Inquiry for investigation. As of September 2005, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse from DPKO's field missions were referred to OIOS.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 31 May [meeting 5191], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2005/21** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recognizes the vital role that United Nations peacekeeping operations have played for decades in bringing peace and stability to countries emerging from war. The Council further recognizes that, with few exceptions, the women and men who serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations do so with the utmost professionalism, dedication and, in some cases, make the ultimate sacrifice.

The Council is deeply concerned about the allegations of sexual misconduct by United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The distinguished and honourable record of accomplishment in United Nations peacekeeping is being tarnished by the acts of a few individuals.

The Council condemns, in the strongest terms, all acts of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Council reiterates that sexual exploitation and abuse are unacceptable and have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mission mandates.

The Council, while confirming that the conduct and discipline of troops is primarily the responsibility

of troop-contributing countries, recognizes the shared responsibility of the Secretary-General and all Member States to take every measure within their purview to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by all categories of personnel in United Nations peacekeeping missions and to enforce United Nations standards of conduct in this regard. The Council reiterates the importance of ensuring that sexual exploitation and abuse are properly investigated and appropriately punished.

The Council underlines the fact that the provision of an environment in which sexual exploitation and abuse are not tolerated is primarily the responsibility of managers and commanders.

The Council welcomes the comprehensive report on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, prepared by the Adviser to the Secretary-General on this issue, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations. The Council also welcomes the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group on its resumed session.

The Council urges the Secretary-General and troop-contributing countries to ensure that the recommendations of the Special Committee, which fall within their respective responsibilities, are implemented without delay.

The Council will consider including relevant provisions for prevention, monitoring, investigation and reporting of misconduct cases in its resolutions establishing new mandates or renewing existing mandates. In this regard, the Council calls upon the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting on peacekeeping missions, a summary of the preventive measures taken to implement a zero-tolerance policy and of the outcome of actions taken against personnel found culpable of sexual exploitation and abuse.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/59/472/Add.2], adopted **resolution 59/300** without vote [agenda item 77].

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

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling in particular its resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 59/281 of 29 March 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 56 of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Secretary-General make available to the United Nations membership, no later than the first week of April 2005, a comprehensive report on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse by military, civilian police and civilian personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations,

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

Affirming the need for the Organization to adopt without delay a comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations as recommended by the Special Committee and the Adviser to the Secretary-General,

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

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Adviser to the Secretary-General;

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, contained in chapter II of the report on its 2005 resumed session;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and the relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, and supports the request of the Special Committee to the Secretary-General that he provide a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee at its next regular session;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee to include this issue in its report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

On the same date, the Assembly took further action on the question of sexual exploitation and abuse in section XIV of **resolution 59/296** on the administrative and budgetary aspects of UN peacekeeping operations: cross-cutting issues (see p. 133).

Strengthening operational capacity

The Secretary-General, in his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/59/608 & Corr.1], outlined proposals for filling the gaps in UN peacekeeping capabilities. He proposed a strategic reserve for UN peacekeeping, comprising a number of task forces of some 1,250 troops each. Each task force would be held within the national command of a troop contributor and would be a combined-arms force, with enabling units capable of sustained operations. The task forces would be drawn from a geographical range of troop-contributing countries, each of which would secure prior political and legislative agreement to deploy, obviating the time-consuming process of securing agreement immediately prior to deployment. The task forces would be configured in a structure of “graduated readiness”, and once deployed, would come under the command of the Force Commander. The strategic reserve would be deployed for a specific duration and task, and

would return to the troop-contributing country upon the completion of that task. It would focus mainly on stabilization, but could provide an interim capability pending deployment of other forces.

The Secretary-General also proposed a standing civilian police capacity for two to three years and comprising up to 100 police officers, to be deployed in teams of 10 to 20 in mission areas to support early planning and needs assessments, the building up of mission headquarters, the setting up of a well-functioning civilian police component to develop sustainable local police structures and periodic evaluations related to mandate implementation.

The Special Committee, at its 2005 substantive session [A/59/19/Rev.1], while noting the unprecedented increase in peacekeeping operations, recognized that the current level of resources limited the scope and number of missions that DPKO could effectively undertake and manage. It recommended that DPKO evaluate how and to what extent the complexity of peacekeeping mandates affected the operational efficiency of peacekeeping missions, with a view to reporting its findings to the Special Committee in 2006. The Special Committee noted with concern the Secretary-General’s assessment that UN peacekeeping continued to face significant gaps, particularly in regard to enabling and niche capabilities and strategic lift operations.

While recognizing that the UN’s ability to rapidly deploy and support forces continued to improve, the Special Committee noted that initiatives to strengthen regional arrangements would provide readily available and deployable forces to reduce deployment time lines. It believed that a definitive review of the effectiveness of the UN standby arrangement system was necessary, and while supporting the call for rapid deployment, urged the Secretariat to optimize all aspects of pre-mandate operational preparedness and deployment. It called for a more efficient management of the financial and logistical aspects of peacekeeping operations at Headquarters and in the field, in order to make deployment both rapid and effective. To overcome the contingent-owned equipment and sustainability shortfall faced by some troop-contributing countries, the Special Committee recommended that DPKO continue to facilitate various enabling arrangements, including through other Member States and bilateral arrangements.

The Special Committee welcomed initiatives to improve the operational effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations, including the creation of tactical and force-level reserves in mission areas, and took note of the Secretary-General’s

strategic reserve initiative to provide existing peacekeeping missions with a robust and capable reserve, to be called upon if required (see above). Furthermore, questions such as the composition of task forces, the decision-making processes for deployment, command and control arrangements, complementarity with other crisis response initiatives, sustainability and financial implications, among others, had to be answered before the Special Committee could reach firm conclusions on related proposals. The Special Committee recommended that DPKO work closely with Member States to answer those questions.

Civilian rapid deployment roster

In a March report [A/59/763], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 58/298 [YUN 2004, p. 96], the Secretary-General described the status of the pilot civilian rapid deployment roster, established in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 99] as a mechanism whereby UN staff members were selected and included in a roster for deployment at short notice for a limited time to perform critical functions at start-up, surge or liquidation phases of peacekeeping operations. The report also analysed the achievements and shortcomings of the mechanism and made recommendations to improve its utility.

As at July 2004, 57 staff members on the roster had been deployed to six missions. The operation of the mechanism was evaluated internally by the Personnel Management and Support Service and further reviewed by the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, during which various aspects were examined, including communications, process and commitment, the composition of the roster, applications, the selection and clearance process, deployment, medical clearance, length of deployment, the training programme and management and resources.

The reviews revealed, among other findings, that the actual purpose and implementation of the roster, its administration, funding and the permissible length of deployment, remained unclear. Some releasing missions were reluctant to release selected staff, while some receiving missions questioned the qualifications of the staff member selected. Critical posts were left vacant or without a sufficient number of candidates, and wide differences were observed between the qualifications of applicants included on the roster and the technical skills required.

Addressing the way forward, the Secretary-General observed that the value of a civilian rapid deployment roster mechanism was clearly demonstrated, despite the constraints identified. The roster would be extended to fully encompass the

needs of missions during the start-up, surge and liquidation phases, and the team structure replaced by a single integrated roster, with a revised list of critical functions for which a specific number of staff would be selected. The new roster would comprise approximately 365 civilian staff members.

Comprehensive revised procedures would be communicated to all field missions and DPKO would explain the mechanism and its implementation modalities, clarifying that the roster facility was not a transfer or promotion mechanism, nor a substitute for the regular recruitment process. To ensure a larger pool of candidates, particularly for senior positions and functions, the application process would be extended to other Secretariat offices and possibly to UN Volunteers. The Secretary-General recommended that the civilian rapid deployment facility be closely linked to other DPKO rapid deployment initiatives.

Other major changes would be introduced in the revised selection and clearance process, which would enable DPKO or the missions to nominate staff members for inclusion on the roster. Individual staff members could also continue to voluntarily request inclusion in the roster. Staff would remain on the roster for one year, and the maximum deployment period would be extended to 120 days. With the concurrence of both the receiving and releasing missions, roster staff might apply for a position in the receiving mission but would have to return to their parent mission for a minimum period of three months. An evaluation mechanism would be built into the new procedures.

A rapid deployment roster management capacity would be established within the Personnel Management and Support Service to coordinate the selection and clearance process, monitor the roster, identify gaps and issue application request announcements to ensure that the roster remained populated and updated, and meet with staff and supervisors to promote and discuss the programme. Focal points would also be appointed in each technical entity in the Secretariat to provide technical advice and help to locate candidates. The roster would be renewed annually.

The Secretary-General concluded that the roster was one way of meeting DPKO's urgent operational requirements. The Department would report on efforts to build such a cadre in its comprehensive report on the conditions of field service.

In April [A/59/736], ACABQ considered the Secretary-General's report on the status of the civilian rapid deployment roster. Taking note of the selection criteria for the mechanism, the find-

ings of an internal evaluation and review of its operation and the Secretary-General's recommendations for improving its utility, ACABQ encouraged the maximum use of existing personnel management and database systems, including the Galaxy recruitment system, in managing the roster, particularly in terms of improving its efficiency and reducing management costs. It requested the Secretariat to increase cooperation with UN agencies, funds and programmes in establishing the humanitarian, development and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration components of the roster to ensure that the requirements of integrated missions were fully met.

Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2005 substantive session (31 January–25 February) [A/59/19/Rev.1], recognized the need for DPKO to plan peacekeeping missions so as to facilitate an effective approach to peacebuilding and long-term prevention of the recurrence of armed conflict. It encouraged the Secretariat to develop coherent strategies and early integrated mission planning based on lessons learned in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, strengthening of the rule of law, security sector reform, quick-impact projects and mine action, with a view to restoring immediate security and stability in post-conflict societies.

Underlining the need for clear and well-defined mandates and exit strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee called for the inclusion of peacebuilding elements in complex mandates to generate enabling conditions to prevent the recurrence of armed conflict. In that regard, it looked forward to the detailed review of UN system capacity to be included in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly's resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session on the implementation of resolution 57/337 [YUN 2003, p. 50].

The Special Committee welcomed DPKO's intention to develop guidance and training for civil/military cooperation in peacebuilding activities and called on the Secretary-General to report on best practices for the peacekeeping, humanitarian/development interface for Member States' consideration.

The Special Committee stressed the need for effective planning for the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and to long-term development and to strengthen the financing of post-conflict assistance. It also encouraged cooperation with the business community, including the provision of employment opportunities to

demobilized fighters as a contribution to reconstruction and post-conflict resolution.

The Special Committee called for long-term donor commitment to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, and requested the Secretary-General to identify the additional resources needed to support donor capacity in that regard. It welcomed progress by DPKO and other UN agencies in developing UN integrated standards on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as well as on a comprehensive weapons management strategy, encouraged them to complete those processes. The Special Committee also took note of the Stockholm Initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration launched in 2004 by 23 countries and 14 organizations, including UN agencies, to review current practice in that area and to strengthen intervention that supported peace processes. The initiative was examined and further defined during subsequent meetings. A final conference (Stockholm, Sweden, 17-18 November) discussed the Initiative's aims, outline and recommendations.

Recognizing the importance of quick-impact projects in addressing local needs, building and sustaining confidence and supporting peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee recommended that the selection procedure for those projects be addressed at the field level, that resources for them directly support the mission's mandate, and that they either respond to needs not covered by existing development and humanitarian assistance efforts, or serve as a catalyst to broaden those efforts.

Noting that a UN peacekeeping mission might be mandated to assist in building or reforming rule of law capacities, it encouraged the Secretariat to work towards the strategic and operational planning of peacekeeping operations to fulfil such mandates. It also encouraged DPKO to give special attention to the protection, welfare and rights of children in armed conflict.

The Special Committee looked forward to the Secretary-General's comprehensive strategy and action plan for mainstreaming gender perspectives into all peacekeeping activities and to reviewing that strategy in 2006, and DPKO's status reports on those initiatives. It commended the introduction of mandatory pre-deployment gender training for military, civilian and civilian police personnel and the issuance of guidance on human trafficking. It also encouraged Member States and the Secretariat to increase the participation of women in all aspects and levels of peacekeeping operations and stressed the need for ongoing reporting by the Secretary-General

on the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the field and at Headquarters.

The Special Committee also recommended that, within the integrated mission planning process, DPKO should provide the concept of operations and the operational plan for the information of potential troop-contributing countries and regional organizations as early as possible in the mission planning process in order to facilitate national planning prior to submitting recommendations to the Security Council.

Safety and security

Security Council action. On 2 March, the Security Council, in statement **S/PRST/2005/10** (see p. 167), condemned a 25 February attack against a patrol of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), which resulted in the death of nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers.

Special Committee consideration. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its 2005 substantive session [A/59/19/Rev.1], expressed concern about the precarious security environment in many field missions and called on the Secretariat to give priority to enhancing the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel in the field. It condemned the killing of military and civilian police officers in several missions and recognized that those attacks and other acts of violence constituted a major challenge to UN field operations. The Department of Safety and Security and DPKO needed to coordinate activities in order to provide integrated, unified security assessments and operational advice and support to crisis management to peacekeeping missions. The Secretariat should improve its capacity for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and provide a concept definition or policy paper on joint mission analysis cells, setting out, among other things, the details of their structure, functions and role, with the aim of providing information on the various components in the context of both new and existing peacekeeping operations.

The Special Committee was concerned about the safety and security of military observers and other unarmed UN personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping operations and asked the Secretariat to provide greater clarity on measures taken to enhance their security. It stressed the need for correct risk assessments prior to the deployment of military observers and other unarmed UN personnel in difficult areas and called upon the Secretariat to ensure that they were provided with adequate security.

Welcoming improved information flow to troop-contributing countries, the Committee encouraged the Secretariat to maintain that flow. It agreed that, as the United Nations enhanced its capacity to gather field information and assess risks, all forms of technical monitoring and surveillance means, particularly aerial monitoring, should be explored to ensure the safety of peacekeepers, especially in volatile and dangerous conditions and in situations too dangerous for visual ground monitoring. The Secretary-General should provide in his next report to the Committee a comprehensive assessment in that regard, based on lessons learned.

The Special Committee stressed the need for DPKO to incorporate in measures to deal with aerial accidents the lessons learned from past incidents and to maintain the highest possible standards of air safety, especially when subcontracting air transport.

OIOS report. During the year, OIOS conducted a global audit of field security management at 15 field missions managed by DPKO and five political and peacebuilding missions administered by the Department of Political Affairs. As stated in the OIOS report [A/59/702], the audit, which assessed the effectiveness of field security management, aimed to help enhance the security of UN personnel in the field during a period of heightened risk. The audit found that basic security arrangements were being improved in the majority of missions and that good practices prevailed in some duty stations. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) and DPKO had cooperated in strengthening security management. However, improvements were needed both at Headquarters and in field security structures, as well as in security plans and policies and their implementation, deployment and personnel administration, budgeting and resourcing, coordination with host Governments and external military forces and among UN agencies, and physical security. Other major findings included the need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of various security governing bodies, and that country-wide security organization in various countries needed to be re-examined, and reporting lines of security officers clearly defined. In some duty stations, no official memorandum of understanding or protocol (status of forces/mission agreement) on security issues was signed with the host Government and/or the external military forces, and the attendance by agencies at country-wide security management team meetings was poor. In other duty stations, the security plan was either incomplete or out of date and, in many cases, not tested or rehearsed. The security war-

den system was deficient, internal communications between staff and the mission security section was poor and there was inadequate awareness of the importance of security arrangements among UN personnel while the minimum operating security standards recommended by UNSECOORD had not yet been established by DPKO as a policy requirement.

Some missions had insufficient resources to ensure compliance with security requirements, as there was no separate budget line for security costs in mission budgets. The vacancy rate for security posts was high in many missions, and security training was often inadequate. In some missions, security arrangements for officials designated as “at risk” were inadequate, close protection was not always provided to high-ranking officials and perimeter security and access control procedures for visitors needed to be improved.

OIOS recommended that the Secretary-General issue a single policy document/manual incorporating all security-related directives and procedures, clearly identifying the roles and responsibilities of those expected to carry out security functions in the field and with additional clarification of those functions provided to missions when necessary. UNSECOORD and DPKO should direct all designated officials and heads of mission to improve security training for all UN staff at duty stations and to increase their awareness of the security arrangements; ensure that the composition and performance of the security management teams at the countrywide and mission levels met relevant UN policy requirements; improve the security warden system in duty stations and ensure that missions maintained updated staff lists, including dependants and contact information for each person. They should also ensure that mission and countrywide security plans were complete, updated and tested and that missions adhered to guidelines and requirements for providing close protection to senior officials.

DPKO should ensure that proper reporting lines and accountability mechanisms for security matters in field missions were established and review the practices for recruiting chief security officers; require peacekeeping missions to use UNSECOORD minimum operating security standards when implementing security management programmes; and request the Controller to establish separate budget lines in peacekeeping missions’ budgets for the security function to facilitate the planning and monitoring of security-related expenditures. It should also address the understaffing of security posts and take immediate remedial action; streamline the procedure for acquiring essential security and safety equip-

ment; ensure that the strategic deployment stocks at the UN Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, had essential security equipment available for rapid deployment to new missions; that designated officials took action to improve coordination at the countrywide and mission levels and strengthen communication and cooperation with the respective host Governments and external military forces; and clarify the authority and mechanisms regarding the declaration and revision of security phases.

DPKO and the Department of Safety and Security agreed with the majority of the recommendations, some of which they had already taken action to implement.

By **decision 60/551** of 23 December, the General Assembly deferred until its resumed sixtieth session consideration of the OIOS report on the global audit of field security management.

Cooperation with regional organizations

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [A/59/19/Rev.1], recognizing that regional arrangements had unique and complementary capacities to offer within the context of cooperation with UN peacekeeping operations, urged the United Nations to strengthen its operational linkages and partnerships with those organizations. It called on DPKO to continue to explore the concept of trilateral arrangements among the United Nations, regional arrangements and donor countries, with a view to enhancing regional peacekeeping capacity. The Special Committee welcomed the continued efforts of the European Union to cooperate with the United Nations in crisis management situations and to develop crisis management capabilities.

Women and peacekeeping

On 27 October [meeting 5294], the Security Council discussed the question of women and peace and security. It had before it a concept paper [S/2005/664] on the subject submitted by Romania and the Secretary-General’s report [S/2005/636] on the preparation of a system-wide action plan for implementing resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security [YUN 2000, p. 1113].

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, reporting on progress made and the remaining challenges in implementing resolution 1325(2000), said that DPKO had integrated a gender perspective in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in Liberia, resulting in the demobilization of over 21,000 women, many of whom provided important information on hidden arms caches. In

Burundi, 231 of the 485 disarmed female ex-combatants were recruited into the newly restructured police force as part of their reintegration. Gender advisers trained police personnel of restructured police forces to ensure that victims of rape and other forms of gender-based violence had access to confidential and gender-sensitive case reporting. The first specialist police unit to deal with gender-based violent crimes in peacekeeping missions was established in Timor-Leste, and similar units in other missions. Considerable work had also been done to promote women's participation in transitional government institutions.

Gender units were also supporting capacity development of national counterparts in the governmental and non-governmental sectors in all mission areas. In Afghanistan, that included capacity development of women's affairs departments in 29 provinces across the country. In Côte d'Ivoire, the gender unit was supporting the mobilization of women's groups representing political parties, trade unions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to create a common platform to promote women's participation in decision-making. Gender units also supported the integration of gender perspectives into the judicial and legal sectors.

However, there were some setbacks such as the revelation of sexual exploitation by peacekeepers of women and girls (see p. 118), which highlighted the importance incorporating a gender perspective into DPKO's work. A significant proportion of peacekeeping personnel still did not have a conceptual understanding of gender mainstreaming, which partly explained why many gender mainstreaming strategies had not been institutionalized and the limited progress made in increasing the number of female personnel in peacekeeping, particularly in uniformed functions and in senior leadership positions. The perspectives of women were still not adequately harnessed to inform planning and operational activities.

The Under-Secretary-General stated that, in recognition of those shortcomings, he had issued a policy statement on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping that provided an operational framework at the field and Headquarters levels for implementing resolution 1325(2000). As part of that policy, DPKO was finalizing a comprehensive action plan for implementing that resolution, built on the system-wide action plan outlined in the Secretary-General's report before the Council.

In renewing DPKO's commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), the Department intended to focus on ensuring that respon-

sibility for implementing the resolution was not limited to gender advisers or female staff alone; all men and women, particularly at senior levels at Headquarters and in the field, were responsible for implementing the resolution; all DPKO policies and guidance incorporated the relevant provisions of the resolution; gender mainstreaming was emphasized within all reporting and accountability mechanisms; marked progress was made towards increasing the number of women in peacekeeping; and partnership frameworks that guided collaboration with UN agencies and Member States in the implementation of the resolution were reviewed and refined. Strategic objectives and actions of individual DPKO offices would be consolidated into one Department-wide plan.

To further the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), the Under-Secretary-General suggested that Council members engage with the issue of women and peace and security on an ongoing basis and that its visits to peacekeeping missions provide for meaningful discussions with women leaders and representatives of women's organizations. The Council should also consider designing an action plan to guide its role in monitoring the implementation of resolution 1325(2000).

The Council President, in statement **S/PRST/2005/52** of 27 October (see p. 1255), welcomed the UN System-wide Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to integrate gender perspectives into the terms of reference of Council visits and missions and to include gender specialists in its teams.

Comprehensive review of peacekeeping

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 58/315 [YUN 2004, p. 90], the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group continued their comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects [A/59/19/Rev.1]. In response to the Committee's request, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the implementation of the Committee's 2004 [A/59/608 & Corr.1] and 2005 [A/60/640 & Add.1] recommendations.

The Special Committee held two sessions in 2005, its substantive session (New York, 31 January–25 February) and a resumed session (New York, 4–8 April). During the general debate of its resumed substantive session, the Special Com-

mittee considered uniform standards, training, the participation of women in peacekeeping missions, planning, organizational, management and command responsibility, welfare and recreation, data management, capacity to address misconduct, investigations, public information and communications, victim assistance, individual disciplinary, financial and criminal accountability, memorandum of understanding and the group of legal experts (for details, see respective sections).

It also considered the report [A/59/710] on a comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations (see p. 118).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 March [meeting 84], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/59/472/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/281** without vote [agenda item 77].

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 resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,

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

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

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

Noting the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,

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

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

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 22 to 154 of its report;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

4. *Reiterates* that those Member States that become personnel contributors to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Special Committee, become members at the following session of the Special Committee;

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

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

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

By **decision 60/523** of 8 December, the Assembly took note of the report of the Fourth Committee [A/60/478] on its consideration of the agenda item "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

Operations in 2005

As at 1 January 2005, there were 16 peacekeeping missions in operation—7 in Africa, 1 in the Americas, 2 in Asia, 3 in Europe and the Mediterranean and 3 in the Middle East. During the year, two missions were closed (in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste), and one new mission launched (in the Sudan), bringing the total number of missions in operation at year's end to 15.

Africa

In Africa, the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was extended for a final period of six months until 31 December. The Security Council also extended the mandates of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) until 30 September 2006; the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2006; the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 15 March 2006; the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 24 January 2006; the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) until 1 July 2006; and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to 31 March 2006. On 24 March, the Council established the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army on 9 January (see p. 301), with an authorized strength of 10,000 military personnel and 715 civilian police. In September, the Council extended the mission's mandate until 24 March 2006.

Americas

In the Americas, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 February 2006.

Asia

In Asia, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), established in 1949, continued to monitor the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir, while the Council's mandate for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) ended on 20 May.

In related action, the Council extended, in September, the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for a further period of twelve months beyond October 2005 (**resolution 1623(2005)**) (see p. 409).

Europe and the Mediterranean

In Europe and the Mediterranean, the Security Council extended the mandates of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 31 January 2006 and of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until 15 June 2006. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Serbia and Montenegro, remained in place. The Council also authorized Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, to establish for a further period of 12 months a multinational stabilization force (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a legal successor to the stabilization force (SFOR), within the context of international efforts to implement the Peace Agreement in the country.

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 2006; and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), whose mandate was renewed until 30 June 2006.

Roster of 2005 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 2005: 150 military observers.

UNMOGIP

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

Established: January 1949.

Mandate: To supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Strength as at December 2005: 42 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 2005: 840 troops, 69 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 2005: 1,047 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 2005: 1,989 troops.

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 2005: 31 troops, 195 military observers; 6 civilian police.

UNOMIG

United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Established: August 1993.

Mandate: To verify compliance with a ceasefire agreement between the parties to the conflict in

Georgia and investigate ceasefire violations; expanded in 1994 to include monitoring the implementation of an agreement on a ceasefire and separation of forces and observing the operation of a multinational peacekeeping force.

Strength as at December 2005: 122 military observers, 12 civilian police.

UNMIK

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Established: June 1999.

Mandate: To promote, among other things, the establishment of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo, perform basic civilian administrative functions, organize and oversee the development of provisional institutions, facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo's future status, support 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 2005: 2,146 civilian police, 37 military observers.

UNAMSIL

United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

Established: October 1999.

Ended: 31 December 2005.

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.

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 the implementation of the Agreement, provide information on security conditions, plan for the observation of the ceasefire, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and assist in the protection of human rights.

Strength as at December 2005: 15,046 troops, 707 military observers, 1,038 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 2005: 3,130 troops, 202 military observers.

UNMISSET

United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

Established: 17 May 2002.

Ended: 20 May 2005.

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.

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, 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 2005: 14,824 troops, 197 military observers, 1,091 civilian police.

UNOCI

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Established: April 2004.

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

Strength as at December 2005: 6,698 troops, 195 military observers, 696 civilian police.

MINUSTAH

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Established: 1 June 2004.

Mandate: To ensure a secure and stable environment in support of the Transitional Government; to support the constitutional and political process, to support the Transitional Government

in bringing about national dialogue, conducting free and fair elections, and extending State authority throughout the country; promote and protect human rights and coordinate with the Transitional Government in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Strength as at December 2005: 7,286 troops, 1,748 civilian police.

ONUB

United Nations Operation in Burundi

Established: 1 June 2004.

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

Strength as at December 2005: 5,170 troops, 187 military observers, 82 civilian police.

UNMIS

United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Established: 24 March 2005.

Mandate: To support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army on 9 January 2005; facilitate and coordinate the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and humanitarian assistance; assist with humanitarian demining; and protect and promote human rights.

Strength as at December 2005: 4,009 troops, 467 military observers, 289 civilian police.

Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations

Financing

Expenditures for UN peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 totalled \$4,074.3 million, compared to \$2,933.8 million for the previous 12-month period. The 39 per cent increase in expenditure was attributable to the expanded operations of MONUC, the full-year impact of four peacekeeping missions (UNMIL, UNOCI, MINUSTAH, ONUB), established in 2004, and the recent addition of UNMIS, partly offset by the lower expenditure levels in UNAMSIL and UNMISSET.

In terms of the overall financial situation during the year, assessments, unpaid assessments and expenditures of active missions all increased on account of the increased activity, with a corresponding decrease in liquidity. Outstanding unpaid assessments for active peacekeeping missions rose by \$147.5 million or 15 per cent. Unpaid assessments for closed missions did not change significantly. As at 30 June 2005, total unpaid assessments amounted to \$1.7 billion, compared to \$1.5 billion in the previous financial period.

Available cash for active missions totalled \$1,245 million, while liabilities reached \$1,704 million. For closed missions, available cash totalled \$310.7 million, while liabilities were \$322.1 million. Closed missions with cash surplus continued to be the only available source of lending to active peacekeeping missions. New loans totalling \$244 million were made during the reporting period, bringing total loans outstanding as at 30 June 2005 to \$41.6 million.

Notes of Secretary-General. In March [A/C.5/59/18], the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/233 A [YUN 1994, p. 1338], submitted to the Assembly's Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee updated information on the approved budgetary levels for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 for all current peacekeeping operations, including requirements for the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB), and the support account for peacekeeping operations, amounting to \$3,878,821,200. That figure took into account the 2004 Assembly decisions in respect of UNMISSET, MINUSTAH, ONUB, UNAMSIL and UNOCI.

In April [A/C.5/59/29], the Secretary-General submitted proposed budgetary requirements for all peacekeeping operations (except MONUC and UNMIS), UNLB and the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, amounting to \$3,555,741,900. In June [A/C.5/59/33], that information was updated to include the commitment authorities for MONUC for the period 1 July to 31 October 2005 in the amount of \$3,021,273,700.

In June [A/C.5/59/34], the Secretary-General, taking into account further financing actions by the Assembly, provided a breakdown of resources approved for all 15 peacekeeping operations, the support account for peacekeeping operations and UNLB in the amount of \$3,521,456,500.

The Secretary-General also submitted a May note [A/C.5/59/31], which provided the working definitions used by DPKO in the preparation of mission budgets that included a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration component. The definitions, which addressed each element

of that component, were being discussed by the United Nations interagency working group on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, with a view to standardizing them across the UN system. While the Secretariat might continue to include operational costs related to disarmament and demobilization, including reinsertion, in the budgets of relevant peacekeeping missions, financial support for reintegration would continue to be resourced through voluntary contributions and managed by the appropriate agencies, funds and programmes.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in its overview of the report of the Board of Auditors on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of UN peacekeeping operations [A/59/736], welcomed the continued progress in the presentation of peacekeeping budgets using results-based budgeting techniques, but noted that some areas required further improvements. There was a need to formulate sufficiently representative and comprehensive indicators of achievement to better indicate progress in attaining expected accomplishments of logistical, administrative and security support. ACABQ made a number of other recommendations for improving the results-based budgeting presentation.

The Committee was concerned about the unevenness in the quality of presentation in the budget documentation submitted to it and held the view that the ultimate responsibility for maintaining standards with regard to presentation and related issues rested with Headquarters. It was also concerned about the tendency on the part of the Administration to use peacekeeping budgets to introduce initiatives with policy implications, rather than first seeking the necessary policy guidance from the Assembly.

ACABQ also considered a number of reports by the Secretary-General and OIOS on various cross-cutting issues relating to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of UN peacekeeping operations. Those reports and ACABQ comments thereon were discussed under subsequent subheadings of this chapter.

By **decision 59/562** of 22 June, the Assembly, having considered the Secretary-General's May statement [A/C.5/59/32] on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.5/59/L.53] entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: cross-cutting issues", noted that an additional appropriation of \$466,600 would be required for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, should it adopt that draft resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/532/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/296** without vote [agenda item 123].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, 49/233 B of 31 March 1995, 51/218 E of 17 June 1997 and 57/290 B of 18 June 2003,

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

I

1. *Appreciates* the efforts of all peacekeeping personnel in dealing with the current unprecedented surge in peacekeeping operations;

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

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual overview report on the financing of peacekeeping missions, reporting, inter alia, on trends in the size, composition and funding of the peacekeeping missions, relevant developments in peacekeeping operations, efforts to improve the management and functioning of peacekeeping operations and the management priorities for the coming year as well as actions taken to implement the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide relevant information in the individual budget submissions of peacekeeping operations for the financial period 2006/07 on the efficiencies resulting from the implementation of the applicable provisions of the present resolution;

II

Results-based budgeting

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000;

2. *Recognizes* the continued progress in the presentation of the peacekeeping budgets using results-based budgeting techniques;

3. *Decides* that the progressive implementation of results-based budgeting shall be in full compliance with its resolution 55/231;

4. *Recalls* that in paragraph 9 of its resolution 55/231, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that, in presenting the programme budget, expected accomplishments and, where possible, indicators of achievement are included to measure achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States;

5. *Notes* that some indicators of achievement reflected in the budgets and budget performance reports appear to measure the performance of Member

States, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the purpose of the indicators of achievement is not to assess the performance of Member States but, where possible, to reflect the contributions by peacekeeping missions to the expected accomplishments and objectives in keeping with their respective mandates;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his future budget proposals in full compliance with its resolution 55/231;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to refine the existing results-based budgeting framework and to provide clearer financial information on all components of the missions;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to integrate operational, logistical and financial aspects fully in the planning phase of peacekeeping operations by linking results-based budgeting to the mandate implementation plans of peacekeeping operations;

III

Budget presentation

1. *Reiterates* paragraph 5 of its resolution 57/290 B;

2. *Notes with concern* the unevenness in the quality of presentation in the documentation submitted, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to provide in the budget documents the necessary information available that fully justifies his resource requirements;

3. *Reaffirms* rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the overview report, to provide detailed information on major policy changes having an impact on resource levels, human resources management policies or operational requirements that require the approval of the Assembly;

4. *Welcomes* the use, in the proposed budgets for 2005/06, of a new methodology for budgeting international staff costs;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and all missions make every effort to introduce strict budgetary discipline and enforce adequate controls over budget implementation;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat with conducting a business process review of the preparation of peacekeeping budget proposals, including the respective roles of staff in missions and at Headquarters and to submit its findings, including recommendations to streamline the process, to the General Assembly in the context of the report requested in section IV of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* that, in view of the critical importance of budgets for the effective functioning of missions, the submission of budget proposals from missions to Headquarters should constitute part of the leadership and accountability functions of the Head of Mission/Special Representative;

8. *Reaffirms* the necessity to provide peacekeeping operations with adequate financial resources, especially in their start-up and expanded phases, to enable the timely, full and effective implementation of their mandates in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council;

9. *Affirms* that budget submissions should, to the extent possible, reflect management improvements

and efficiency gains to be achieved and articulate future strategies in this regard;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake the review of the functions of the posts as an ongoing exercise and to determine the level of posts according to changing operational requirements as well as the actual responsibilities and functions performed, with a view to ensuring the most cost-effective use of resources;

IV

Review of the management structure of all peacekeeping operations

Recalling its decision 59/507 of 29 October 2004,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the review of the management structure of all peacekeeping operations,

1. *Recalls* its previous request for several complex peacekeeping operations to review their structures, bearing in mind the complexities, mandates and specificities of each, and notes that some operations have undertaken the revision, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the remaining complex operations conduct the requested review and streamline their structures and to report thereon in the context of the relevant budget submissions;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the evolution of structures in individual peacekeeping operations to avoid the duplication of functions and an excessive proportion of higher-grade posts, bearing in mind the mandates, complexities and specificities of each mission;

3. *Recalls*, in this context, its resolution 59/272 of 23 December 2004;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with a comprehensive management audit to review the practices of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and to identify risks and exposures to duplication, fraud and abuse of authority in the following operational areas: finance, including budget preparation; procurement; human resources, including recruitment and training; and information technology, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in the light of the increasing demands with which the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is faced and the burden this is putting on its functioning, with carrying out a review of the management structures of the Department, while taking into account the Security Council mandates and existing recommendations formulated on previous occasions by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors and paying specific attention to the interaction, coordination and cooperation of the Department with other Secretariat departments and offices, including but not limited to the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Public Information, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Department of Management, as well as the relevant funds and programmes, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to review, streamline and simplify procedures, on a continuing basis, as

well as to recommend changes to regulations and rules, as appropriate, in order to support more effective and efficient administrative processes, with a view to achieving economies in requirements for human and other resources;

7. *Notes* the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions regarding the need for the full and timely implementation of recommendations of all oversight bodies, and urges the Secretary-General to expedite the establishment of the high-level follow-up mechanism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

8. *Stresses* the need to improve the cooperation and coordination between the peacekeeping missions and Headquarters with regard to lessons learned and areas of common interest that could be used by all missions;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant financial regulations and rules, staff regulations and rules and administrative issuances are fully complied with by all missions and that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken in all cases of non-compliance;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to finalize the process for the establishment of guidelines for the enforcement of basic standards of conduct and behaviour for all United Nations system personnel;

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

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the level and functions of the protocol officers, bearing in mind the relevant observations of the Advisory Committee, and to report thereon in the context of the relevant budget submissions;

V

Shared funding of posts of Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General

1. *Takes note* of paragraph 62 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and in this regard decides that the position of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who heads the humanitarian pillar and serves as Resident Coordinator, will be funded through a cost-sharing arrangement with the United Nations Development Programme;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report, in the context of the overview report, on the outcome of the exchange of letters, specifying agreed generic job profiles, organizational structure and cost-sharing arrangements with the United Nations Development Programme;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report the necessary reimbursement for the transition period, reflecting the effective start date of the cost-sharing arrangements, in the context of the budget performance reports;

VI

Disarmament, demobilization (including reinsertion) and reintegration

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

2. *Notes* that reinsertion activities are part of the disarmament and demobilization process, as outlined in the note by the Secretary-General;

3. *Emphasizes* that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are a critical part of peace processes and integrated peacekeeping operations, as mandated by the Security Council, and supports strengthening the coordination of those programmes in an integrated approach;

4. *Stresses* the importance of a clear description of respective roles of peacekeeping missions and all other relevant actors;

5. *Also stresses* the need for strengthened cooperation and coordination between the various actors within and outside the United Nations system to ensure effective use of resources and coherence on the ground in implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when submitting future budget proposals containing mandated resource requirements for disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion, to provide clear information on these components and associated post and non-post costs;

7. *Notes* that the components used by the Secretary-General for budgeting for disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion activities are set out in the note by the Secretary-General, recognizing ongoing discussions on these concepts;

8. *Notes also* the intention of the Secretary-General to submit integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

VII

Quick-impact projects

Requests the Secretary-General to streamline the process of implementation of quick-impact projects and to ensure that they are fully implemented within the planned time frames;

VIII

Training, recruitment and staff in the field

Recalling its resolutions 56/293 of 27 June 2002 and 57/318 of 18 June 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the training policy and evaluation system of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Having also considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the criteria used for recruitment to support account posts, on greater use of national staff in field missions, on measures to expedite recruitment for field missions, taking into account the delegation of recruitment authority to field missions, including the use of fair and transparent recruitment procedures and monitoring mechanisms, on measures that would better streamline the policy guidelines related to the temporary duty assignment of staff in peacekeeping missions, on the status of the civilian rapid deployment roster, on the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300- and 100-series appointments and the relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee,

Having further considered the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Office of In-

ternal Oversight Services on the audit of the policies and procedures for recruiting Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff and on the follow-up audit of the policies and procedures of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for recruiting international civilian staff for field missions,

1. *Emphasizes* the importance of finalizing the comprehensive training strategy, and decides to restrict training away from mission headquarters of civilian staff to training specific to the implementation of the mandate of the mission, the effective functioning of the mission, the function of a post or, where it is cost-effective, until the finalization of the strategy;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the finalization and implementation of the comprehensive training strategy along with the framework of the evaluation of training to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session in the context of his overview report;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the comprehensive training strategy includes the training needs of national staff for the purpose of capacity-building in the mission area;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that staff in all United Nations peacekeeping operations have access to relevant training opportunities;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make greater use of national staff;

6. *Recalls* section X, paragraph 7, of its resolution 59/266 of 23 December 2004, decides to establish an overall target of no more than 5 per cent of authorized General Service/Field Service posts across missions, with the exception of those missions in a start-up phase, and other exceptional circumstances, to be filled by staff on assignment from Headquarters, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress towards reaching this target;

7. *Affirms* that locally recruited mission staff may be recruited as international staff only through the normal recruitment process in which they compete for international posts in another mission along with other external candidates;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity serve as the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, with due regard for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make every effort to fill vacant posts in peacekeeping operations expeditiously;

10. *Decides* that generic vacancy announcements posted in Galaxy shall be accompanied by information on the location of current specific vacancies and that this would apply to all international vacancies in peacekeeping missions;

11. *Notes with concern* the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraphs 55 and 56 of its report, regarding the practice of hiring individual contractors or individuals on procurement contracts to perform functions of a continuing nature, and requests the Secretary-General to revert to the General Assembly for its consideration of the creation of a post if the function is ongoing and is so warranted;

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on criteria used for recruitment to support account posts, and requests the Secretary-General to update the information and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session for its consideration in the context of human resources management;

13. *Recalls* section X of its resolution 59/266;

14. *Regrets* that the report of the Secretary-General on the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300- and 100-series appointments, did not fully provide the information requested in section X, paragraphs 2 and 3, of resolution 59/266, and in this context reiterates its request to the Secretary-General in section X, paragraph 3, of its resolution 59/266;

15. *Decides* to continue to suspend the application of the four-year maximum limit for appointments of limited duration under the 300 series of the Staff Rules in peacekeeping operations until 30 June 2006;

16. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind paragraph 15 above, to reappoint under the 100 series of the Staff Rules those mission staff whose service under 300-series contracts has reached the four-year limit by 30 June 2006, provided that their functions have been reviewed and found necessary and their performance has been confirmed as fully satisfactory, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth session;

17. *Notes* the fact that 278 of 346 eligible staff were judged to have performed “fully satisfactorily”, and requests the Secretary-General to apply rigorously the criteria set out in its resolution 59/266;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the practice of using 300-series contracts as the primary instrument for the appointment of new mission staff;

IX

Conditions of service

1. *Recalls* section X, paragraphs 5 and 6, of its resolution 59/266, in which the General Assembly requested the International Civil Service Commission and the Secretary-General to review conditions of service in the field and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session;

2. *Decides* to limit conversion of General Service posts to the Field Service category pending receipt of that review;

3. *Also decides* that the review of the field service is the appropriate mechanism for possible recognition of hardship, if warranted;

X

Mission subsistence allowance

Recalling its resolution 58/258 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of mission subsistence allowance policies and procedures and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of Internal Oversight Services continues to audit the mission subsistence allowance rates to ensure their reasonableness in comparison with the actual subsistence costs in the various mission areas and with

the daily subsistence allowance set by the International Civil Service Commission in the same areas;

2. *Decides* to revert to the question of mission subsistence allowance rates and the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the context of the review of conditions of service in the field, requested by the General Assembly in section X, paragraphs 5 and 6, of its resolution 59/266;

3. *Also decides* that specific guidelines and criteria for the setting of miscellaneous or incidental costs as a component of the mission subsistence allowance should be developed, taking into account that mission subsistence allowance rates should not, as a general principle, exceed those of the daily subsistence allowance in the same locality;

XI

Participation of United Nations Volunteers

Recalling its resolution 54/245 A of 23 December 1999,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the participation of United Nations Volunteers in peacekeeping operations, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the evaluation of the United Nations Volunteers Programme and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon, and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the participation of United Nations Volunteers in peacekeeping operations, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the evaluation of the United Nations Volunteers Programme and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon, and endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as contained in paragraphs 70 to 72 of its report;

2. *Acknowledges* the valuable contribution of United Nations Volunteers in the United Nations system;

3. *Recognizes* that Volunteers should not be used as a substitute for staff to be recruited against authorized posts for the implementation of mandated programmes and activities and should not be sought for financial reasons;

4. *Takes note* of paragraph 25 of the report of the Secretary-General and the intention of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue its efforts to exploit the potential for increased use of United Nations Volunteers in peacekeeping operations in those functions or skills which are not normally available in the Secretariat or which are limited;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that Volunteers are subject to the same obligations and responsibilities, including standards of conduct, that the United Nations staff are subject to;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take into account greater use of national staff in peacekeeping operations, when feasible;

XII

Military component

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to reimburse Member States that have provided troops and equipment to United Nations peacekeeping operations in a timely manner;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the deployment of troops and contingent-owned equipment is well coordinated so that troops are not deployed without their equipment;

XIII

Regional investigators

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the first year of experience of regional investigators in two hubs, Vienna and Nairobi,

Takes note of the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the first year of experience of regional investigators in two hubs, Vienna and Nairobi, and emphasizes in particular the utilization of resident investigators to do investigations in the large peacekeeping missions and regional investigators to do investigations in the other missions and to provide support for complex cases in the large missions;

XIV

Sexual exploitation and abuse

Recalling its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 59/287 of 13 April 2005,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and the report on the investigation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and the report on the investigation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for the development of a comprehensive, well-defined and coherent policy, taking into account also the relevant provisions of resolution 59/300, addressing, inter alia, the various managerial aspects of preventing and addressing allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in all United Nations activities;

3. *Affirms* that the implementation of a zero-tolerance policy and procedures towards acts of sexual exploitation and abuse should be clearly defined as a core management function, in particular also addressing clear lines of responsibility and accountability relating to the non-implementation and non-enforcement of codes of conduct, policies and preventive measures, and should ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place in this regard;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a comprehensive report based on a thorough analysis of the aspects referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present section, as well as addressing the following:

(a) Systematic consideration of the full continuum of personnel conduct issues, including policy development, training, community relations, compliance supervision, accountability, discipline and investigation;

(b) Clear demonstration that existing expertise and resources in the Organization, both at Headquarters and in the field, including on child protection, gender, public information and other components within their specific roles and mandates, as well as human resources management and training, are fully utilized, and that relevant resource requests avoid duplication of resources and functions and enhance coordination among relevant departments and offices, while ensuring the effective implementation of the mandates of the missions;

(c) Clear reporting lines and proposals for the placement of the proposed capacity dealing with personnel conduct issues, bearing in mind that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General is ultimately accountable;

(d) Full justification of resource requirements, both at Headquarters and in the field, taking into account the specificities of each mission and based on empirical data on the actual number of allegations and cases of sexual exploitation and abuse;

XV

Global audit of field security management

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the global audit of field security management,

Decides to defer until its sixtieth session consideration of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the context of its consideration of a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations;

XVI

Procurement

Recalling its resolutions 57/290 B of 18 June 2003, 58/297 of 18 June 2004 and section A of its resolution 59/288 of 13 April 2005,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on procurement and contract management for peacekeeping operations and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Having also considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the analysis of establishing a global procurement hub for all peacekeeping missions at Brindisi, Italy, and on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the functioning of the existing mechanisms and the award of contracts for procurement, and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Having further considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the procurement of goods and services through letters of assist,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in order to improve the transparency and efficiency of procurement in peacekeeping operations, to ensure implementation of and compliance with the mechanisms aimed at facilitating the compilation by all missions of an assessment of progress and final performance of vendors and its immediate transmission to the United Nations Procurement Service at Headquarters;

2. *Notes* progress towards the harmonization of Headquarters and mission procurement databases,

and in this regard welcomes the continued efforts towards improved transparency and accountability of a comprehensive procurement system, including the availability of peacekeeping procurement data for Member States, as currently displayed on the United Nations Procurement Service web site;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve reporting procurement data to Member States and to consider procurement system processes utilized in the government and private sectors;

4. *Notes* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to increase procurement opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to simplify the vendor registration process, taking into account access to the Internet;

(b) To take further steps to sensitize the business community to procurement opportunities within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The holding of additional business seminars;

(ii) Inviting the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group to hold more meetings in developing countries;

(iii) Including the issue of diversity of sources of procurement as an agenda item at the annual meetings of the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all peacekeeping missions operate with reference to their procurement plans in order to realize the benefits offered by proper procurement planning;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and address causes of excessive procurement lead times at peacekeeping missions;

7. *Also encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that all peacekeeping missions formally identify the training needs of all procurement officers and communicate these needs to Headquarters in order to ensure that training follows proper planning and evaluation of its effectiveness;

XVII

Asset management

1. *Reiterates* that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should ensure that all missions implement an assets replacement programme in a cost-effective manner and in strict compliance with the guidelines on the life expectancy of assets;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the heads of the peacekeeping operations take effective measures to ensure inventory control, replenishment of stocks and reasonable write-off procedures for the disposal of assets no longer required or useful;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that formal written agreements are in place, which include elements such as financial reimbursement and liability, with other United Nations bodies before loaning out to them resources belonging to a peacekeeping operation;

4. *Commends* the ongoing efforts to increase co-operation between missions, particularly those in the same region, and stresses that any agreement on the loan or sharing of mission assets should be clearly understood and documented by the missions involved, bearing in mind that individual operations should remain responsible for preparing and overseeing their

own budgets as well as for controlling their own assets and logistical operations;

XVIII

Information technology

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the functional requirements of field missions for communication and information technology and on the information and communications technology strategy: arrangements for the Galaxy system and the relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take fully into account the return on investment for information and communication technology and to report on its impact on the resource requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the information and communications technology strategy adopted by the General Assembly in order to avoid unnecessary redundancies;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to implement the Galileo system in all peacekeeping operations in order to unify peacekeeping operations inventory;

XIX

Air operations

Recalling section B of its resolution 59/288,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary actions to ensure that staff members involved in air operations are adequately trained, as specified in the Air Operations Manual;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to conduct aviation quality inspections and aviation assessments at missions to confirm that established standards are being fully complied with;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to improve the formulation of resource requirements for air operations in budget submissions to make them more reflective of actual operations, bearing in mind the overbudgeting of air transportation requirements in some peacekeeping operations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake an analysis of the impact of the new costing structure relating to air operations, bearing in mind the relevant observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Board of Auditors, and to report thereon in the context of his next overview report;

XX

Ground transportation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly with a cost-benefit analysis on the issue of the transfer of vehicles with high mileage to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, to other missions and to upcoming missions, taking into account the cost of freight, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixtieth session;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of his overview report, to provide detailed information on the implementation of the vehicle policy, as requested in paragraph 86 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to develop a standard policy with regard to the purchase and assignment of standard civilian and specially equipped armoured vehicles, as well as representational vehicles;

XXI

Ratios of vehicles and information technology equipment to staff

1. *Notes with concern* the lack of information on the implementation of ratios of vehicles to staff and discrepancies in the implementation of standard ratios;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that peacekeeping operations adhere to the standard ratios, bearing in mind the mandate, complexities and size of individual peacekeeping operations;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that in all missions the actual ratio of heavy/medium vehicles is no greater than the established standard ratio of 1:1 and to justify any departure from this standard ratio;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to review the policies on standard ratios of vehicles to staff and to provide the General Assembly, in the context of the overview report, with information on the outcome of the review and efforts to ensure that individual peacekeeping operations adhere to the standard ratios, while bearing in mind the mandate, complexity and size of individual operations;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to apply greater economies in the provision of 4x4 vehicles for civilian staff in missions, in particular but not limited to senior staff at the D-1 level and above, bearing in mind that the existing ratio for 4x4 vehicles must not be exceeded, and to report on the implementation thereof to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session in the context of the overview report;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General progressively to reduce the allocation of one printer per work station and to implement, with immediate effect, where it is cost-effective and feasible, the ratio of printers to desktop computers of 1:4 for all work stations in peacekeeping missions, at Headquarters and in the field;

7. *Decides* to defer consideration of new provisions for desktop computers, printers and laptops at Headquarters and in the field with the exception of new missions and those missions undergoing expansion according to Security Council mandates as well as for replacement purposes in strict compliance with the General Assembly resolution, pending the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the comprehensive management audit to review the practices of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, mentioned in section IV, paragraph 4, of the present resolution;

XXII

Rations contracts

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the delivery of food rations by air assets, without prejudice to the delivery of food to the troops, and to implement the most viable and cost-effective option in each peacekeeping operation;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all missions monitor and evaluate the quality management systems of rations contractors to ensure that food

quality and hygienic conditions are in accordance with established standards;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the use of an independent inspection mechanism to verify the fulfilment by contractors and vendors of all contract specifications regarding quality, hygiene and delivery plans.

Peacekeeping support account

In February [A/59/714 & Add.1], the Secretary-General submitted the financial performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. Expenditure for the period totalled \$111,201,000 against approved resources of \$112,075,800, resulting in an unencumbered balance of \$874,800, attributable mainly to underexpenditure in respect of consultants, official travel, facilities and infrastructure and other supplies, services and equipment. The Secretary-General recommended that the unencumbered balance and other income and adjustments of \$1,873,000 be applied to the 2005/2006 budget. In March [A/59/730], he submitted the budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 in the amount of \$150,743,200, which provided for 761 continuing posts, 100 new posts and 10 existing Resident Auditor posts transferred from mission budgets.

In April [A/59/784], ACABQ, noting that peacekeeping missions had evolved into complex, multidimensional operations, with considerable authority delegated by Headquarters to the field, was of the opinion that such development should have an impact on the level of backstopping required. The level of the support account should not increase indefinitely, nor be used to establish posts that were not approved under the regular budget, or to propose the establishment of posts that should properly be done under the regular budget. It recommended that the Secretary-General analyse the evolution of the support account, starting with the original concept of overload, and describe changing needs to justify departures from that concept. ACABQ reiterated that reports on the support account should justify the totality of resources requested and not just additional requests for posts and non-post requirements. As to the backstopping of special political missions, it was important to revisit the issue of coordination and cooperation between DPKO and the Department of Political Affairs to ensure complementarity, avoid potential duplication and overlap and to consider the possible redistribution of resources to bring them in line with changes in activities and priorities.

ACABQ also recommended approval of 69 posts out of the 110 proposed, and reductions

amounting to \$7,052,300 gross (\$6,760,800 net) in the proposed budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, and that the unencumbered balance of \$874,800 for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and other income of \$1,873,000 related to the period ended 30 June 2004 be applied to the resources required for the new budget period.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/532/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/301** without vote [agenda item 123].

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, 56/293 of 27 June 2002, 57/318 of 18 June 2003, 58/298 of 18 June 2004 and 59/287 of 13 April 2005, 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 reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

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

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

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

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations;

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

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

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 59/296 of 22 June 2005;

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

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to rejustify the need for the P-5 post in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at the sixtieth session;

7. *Decides* to maintain, for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, 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. *Decides* to provide general temporary assistance to implement and monitor the environmental protection programmes in the field, and requests the Secretary-General to rejustify this position by providing additional information on the necessity of the backstopping capacity at Headquarters and on the ongoing cooperative arrangements with the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental protection;

10. *Approves* the establishment of the post of Police Generation Officer (P-4) in the Civilian Police Division;

11. *Decides* to provide general temporary assistance for the P-3 post for the secretariat of the Fifth Committee;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to conduct an audit of standard costs applied to headquarters overheads such as furniture and rental of premises, providing comparative costs on current market prices for these items, and to submit its findings to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth session;

13. *Decides* that all future requests for additional headquarters capacity linked to new or expanded peacekeeping or peace support missions must be accompanied by an analysis of spare capacity created by any downsizing or liquidation of other missions;

14. *Also decides* that following the end of mandate of missions, mission-specific posts in the Office of Operations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be disestablished or redeployed and reflected accordingly in the next support account proposal;

15. *Further decides* not to provide funds in the amount of 350,000 United States dollars for the independent review of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as requested in paragraph 63 of the report of the Secretary-General;

16. *Decides* not to provide funds for Enterprise Content Management and Customer Relationship Management pilot projects, with the exception of the resources of 149,000 dollars sought for the Archives and Records Management Section in paragraph 366 of the report of the Secretary-General;

17. *Notes* that as a result of the expanded range of activities in the Situation Centre, there is a need for a broader and balanced range of skills and qualifications, including but not limited to knowledge of operational military and civilian police issues, among the Situation Centre officers, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the 11 Operations Officer (P-3) posts are available for incumbency to all qualified candidates, including officers seconded from Member States, keeping in mind the importance

of representation of major troop-contributing countries;

18. *Decides* to approve the post of Chief of the Unit (P-5) to strengthen the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

19. *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 2003 to 30 June 2004;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

20. *Approves* the support account requirements in the amount of 146,935,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, including 761 continuing and 70 new temporary posts and their related post and non-post requirements;

Financing of the budget estimates

21. *Decides* that the requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The unencumbered balance of 874,800 dollars for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and other income of 1,873,000 dollars related to the period ended 30 June 2004, to be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

(b) The amount of 13,790,000 dollars in excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the period ended 30 June 2004 to be applied to the resources required for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

(c) The balance of 130,397,400 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

(d) The net estimated staff assessment income of 18,431,600 dollars, comprising the amount of 18,444,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, 26,400 dollars and 400,300 dollars for the requirements presented in the statements by the Secretary-General and the decrease of 439,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2004, to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (c) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations.

Peacekeeping Reserve Fund

In April, the General Assembly considered the Secretary-General's 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 97] and 2005 [A/59/787] reports on the level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, established in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 1022] to ensure the rapid deployment of peacekeeping operations. From a level of \$163.79 million, comprising a reserve of \$150 million and an accumulated surplus of \$13.79 million as at 30 June 2004, the balance of the Fund had increased, as at 31 March 2005, to \$165.02 million, prior to the recording of investment income for the first quarter of the year. The Secretary-General recom-

mended that the excess of \$13.79 million over the authorized Fund level of \$150 million be applied to the 2005/2006 budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations.

ACABQ, in an April report [A/59/791], said that the recommendation to use the excess in that fashion should be considered on a case-by-case basis and that it would be more prudent to determine whether or not to utilize any excess over the authorized Fund level with reference to actual cash on hand rather than a Fund balance that included credits from long-outstanding loans. It therefore recommended that, instead of using the excess balance as proposed by the Secretary-General, it should be maintained in the Fund.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/532/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/297** without vote [agenda item 123].

Peacekeeping Reserve Fund

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and the related reports 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,

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 2004;
2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Decides* that the excess balance of 13,790,000 United States dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2004 shall be applied to meet the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

Funds from closed missions

In March [A/59/752], the Secretary-General, in response to the General Assembly's request in resolution 57/323 [YUN 2003, p. 85], that he postpone the return of 50 per cent of the net cash available for credit to Member States as a result of the closure of a number of peacekeeping missions, reported that the amount available for that purpose as at 30 June 2004 was \$92,898,000. He recommended that, since the available cash in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (\$134.1 million), as at 28 February 2005, was not sufficient to meet all foreseeable cash requirements, particularly the

start-up of UNMIS and the expansion of MONUC and pending the payment of assessed contributions, the balance of \$92,898,000 from closed missions should be retained. He indicated that he would report to the Assembly on the matter at its sixtieth (2005) session.

ACABQ recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals [A/59/790].

By **decision 59/563** of 22 June, the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions and the related ACABQ report and decided to consider the updated financial position of those missions as at 30 June 2005 during the main part of its sixtieth session.

The Assembly also decided that the updated information on the financial position of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) should be included in the report it would consider at its sixtieth (2005) session on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions, under the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" (**decision 59/564**).

In October [A/60/437], the Secretary-General, updating the information on the financial position of closed missions, including UNAVEM and MONUA, stated that, as at 30 June, the net cash available for credit to Member States amounted to \$126,304,000. Owing to the high level of outstanding assessments in the special accounts of some ongoing peacekeeping missions, there was a continuing need to borrow from closed missions. Moreover, the Assembly had only provided commitment authority for the period 1 July to 31 October for MONUC and UNMIS. The full budgets for those missions were still to be reviewed by the Assembly. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly approve the retention of the available cash balance of \$126,304,000 for the 13 closed peacekeeping missions, in the light of the Organization's experience in respect of cash requirements during 2004/2005.

ACABQ, in November [A/60/551], stated that the postponement of the return of "available cash" to Member States was a policy decision to be determined by the Assembly. It drew attention to the fact that cash from closed missions appeared to be the only source for temporary cross-borrowing and was a source of funding for new or expanded missions, in addition to the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. The Assembly might wish to take the Committee's observations into account in reaching its decision.

By **decision 60/551** of 23 December, the Assembly deferred until its resumed sixtieth (2006)

session the Secretary-General's October report on the subject and the related ACABQ report.

Consolidation of peacekeeping accounts

In April [A/59/795], the Secretary-General expressed regret that, owing to the unprecedented surge in peacekeeping operations, the Secretariat had not been able to prepare the comprehensive report on the feasibility of consolidating the accounts of the various peacekeeping operations, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/319 [YUN 2003, p. 90]. Further analysis was required to consider the efficiency aspects of streamlining the processes for the financing of peacekeeping operations while permitting more consistent and timely reimbursement to troop-contributing Governments. The Secretary-General intended to submit the report to the Assembly's sixtieth (2005) session.

Accounts and auditing

At its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session, the General Assembly considered the financial report and audited financial statements for UN peacekeeping operations for 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 [A/59/5 (vol. II)/Corr.1], the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors [A/59/704] and the related ACABQ report [A/59/736].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/588/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/264 B** without vote [agenda item 106].

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

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the financial report and audited financial statements for the twelve-month period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and the report of the Board of Auditors on 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 on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

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

3. *Also takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

Questions related to the report of the Board of Auditors, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

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 2004;

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

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on measures undertaken to implement paragraph 6 above;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, including those relating to the issue of the management of rations in peacekeeping operations as a whole and the management of air operations, and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in implementing the recommendations referred to in paragraph 81 of the report of the Board of Auditors, to take into account that this relates solely to the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations as adopted by the General Assembly which have not been fully implemented to date.

On the same day, the Assembly also considered and took action on the Secretary-General's report [YUN 2004, p. 98] on the first year of experience of regional investigators in two hubs, Vienna and Nairobi, in section XIII of **resolution 59/296** (see p. 133).

Reimbursement issues

Equipment

The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session, considered the Secretary-General's report on reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment [YUN 2004, p. 98] and the findings and recommendations of the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment [ibid.]. ACABQ, in its February 2005 report on the subject [A/59/708], recommended approval of the checklist attached to the Secretary-General's report defining the criteria for reimbursement of commercial pattern support vehicles as military pattern vehicles, and his proposed reimbursement rates for the new items of major equipment. The Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual should be amended to reflect that and the undated Manual distributed as an official UN document. As suggested by the Secretary-General, ACABQ also recom-

mended approval of the Secretariat's proposal that the next Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment be held in 2008, instead of 2007, to review the contingent-owned equipment system, in accordance with the formats established by the Phase V Working Group, and establish a methodology for conducting rate reimbursement reviews.

ACABQ further recommended that the next Working Group review and make recommendations on the costing and medical staffing level of the modular medical concept; and that the Assembly approve the updated format for major medical equipment, as proposed by the Secretary-General for collecting national cost data on medical equipment for review by the next Working Group. It also recommended that consideration be given to having a diverse group of qualified, experienced and impartial individuals make proposals on the factors and elements on which the reimbursement of troop costs could be based.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/532/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/298** without vote [agenda item 123].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/274 of 14 June 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment, the letter dated 12 March 2004 from the Chairman of the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment, the letter dated 12 March 2004 from the Chairman of the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

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

3. *Regrets* that the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment was unable to reach consensus on, inter alia, a review of the rates of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment;

4. *Decides* to approve the proposal of the Secretary-General that the next Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment, which will meet in 2008, carry out

a comprehensive review of the contingent-owned equipment system, as per the formats established by the Phase V Working Group, for a period of not less than fourteen working days;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of holding the Working Group meeting earlier than 2008, if feasible;

6. *Decides* that the next Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment will consider, without prejudice to the comprehensive review of the contingent-owned equipment system, in recommending any revision of rates of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment, the fact that there was no revision of such rates for the period 2004 to 2008 owing to the lack of consensus on an increase in the rates and on the methodology of the 2004 Working Group;

7. *Notes* that, in addition to maintaining all existing components of the current methodology, the Secretary-General had proposed the inclusion of peacekeeping-related training costs and post-deployment medical costs in the troop reimbursement methodology;

8. *Regrets* that the 2004 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment was unable to reach consensus on the components for inclusion in the troop-cost reimbursement methodology;

9. *Notes* that the report of the Secretary-General on the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing countries did not address all elements of the request made in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 55/274;

10. *Reiterates* its request contained in paragraph 8 of its resolution 55/274, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a comprehensive report thereon, addressing all elements;

11. *Notes* that the Secretary-General, in preparing the comprehensive report, may utilize, as appropriate, external expertise;

12. *Decides* to review the daily allowance for troops at its resumed sixtieth session, based on information to be provided in the context of the comprehensive report referred to in paragraph 10 above;

13. *Also decides* to set up a channel of communication between the Secretariat and the Member States on the contingent-owned equipment system, strictly for the exchange of information and for seeking clarification and not for reaching decisions that are within the mandate of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment and relevant intergovernmental bodies.

Management of peacekeeping assets

UN Logistics Base

The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session, considered the financial performance report of the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 [A/59/681]. Expenditure for the period totalled \$22,059,100 gross (\$20,682,000 net) against total appropriations of \$22,208,100 gross (\$20,949,600 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of \$149,000.

The Assembly was asked to decide on the treatment of that balance and other income adjustments amounting to \$2,292,000.

The Assembly also had before it the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 [A/59/691], in the amount of \$37,691,900, an increase of \$9,269,900 in total resources over the previous twelve-month period. Overall, the proposed budget reflected increases of 21.4 per cent in operational costs, 52.9 per cent in personnel costs and 50.8 per cent in staff assessment, and provided for the deployment of 42 international and 167 national staff. It also provided for the completion of phase 1 of the three-phase refurbishment plan, including completion of the hardstanding and associated infrastructure at San Vito to replace the San Pancrazio facilities.

ACABQ, in April [A/59/736/Add.2], recommended that the unencumbered balance and other income/adjustments for the period ended 30 July 2004 be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the Assembly, and that the estimated budget requirement be reduced from \$37,691,900 to \$31,513,100.

In June [A/C.5/59/33], the Secretary-General submitted to the Fifth Committee a note on the amounts to be appropriated in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 June [meeting 104], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/59/532/Add.1], adopted **resolution 59/299** without vote [agenda item 123].

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 58/297 of 18 June 2004,

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

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base and on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the functioning of the existing mechanisms and the award of contracts for procurement, 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;

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

3. *Notes* the proposal of the Secretary-General to expand the Logistics Base, and requests the Secretary-General to include in the budget submission for 2006/07 detailed information on the financial and legal implications, as well as on the expected benefits that may arise from the expansion;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to ensure the active participation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat in the negotiations between the World Food Programme and the Government of Italy concerning the release of the San Vito Base;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 59/296 of 22 June 2005;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a further analysis of how the Logistics Base could best be utilized to provide efficient and economical communications and information technology services, as well as other services, for United Nations peacekeeping and Headquarters clients;

7. *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;

Strategic deployment stocks

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the functioning of the existing mechanisms and the award of contracts for procurement;

9. *Also takes note* of the deficiencies in the contingent-owned equipment of rehatted troops, and requests the Secretary-General to review options for the effective rehating of contingents and provide recommendations in this regard;

10. *Approves* the use of savings derived from the liquidation of prior-period obligations and the unspent balance of the strategic deployment stocks to cover losses in currency exchange and the replenishment of the stocks;

11. *Also approves* the inclusion of strategic deployment stocks replenishment within the commitment authority described in section IV, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the implementation of the existing policies and procedures relating to stock control and inventory and replenishment, regarding strategic deployment;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

**Budget estimates for the period from
1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006**

14. *Approves* the cost estimates for the United Nations Logistics Base amounting to 31,513,100 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

Financing of the budget estimates

15. *Decides* that the requirements for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 2,441,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2004 to be applied against the resources required for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

(b) The balance of 29,072,100 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006;

(c) The net estimated staff assessment income of 2,351,700 dollars, comprising the amount of 2,233,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and the increase of 118,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2004, to be set off against the balance referred to in subparagraph (b) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations;

16. *Also decides* to consider at its sixtieth session the question of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

Strategic deployment stocks

In response to resolution 58/297 [YUN 2004, p. 99], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [A/59/701] on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks (SDS), including the functioning of the existing mechanism and the award of contracts for procurement. He indicated that the two-year project for establishing SDS had been effectively completed. Its management at the Secretariat and at UNLB was fully functional, the procurement of equipment and materials completed and stocks utilized to support multiple mission start-ups and expansions. Since the establishment of SDS in July 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 63], \$132 million worth of equipment had been issued to various operations.

Total expenditure on the project between 2002 and 2004 amounted to \$141,536 million. Total unliquidated obligations, as at 30 June 2004, amounted to \$20,845,243, 70 per cent of which were disbursed during 1 July 2004 and 31 January 2005, with the remaining \$6.3 million to be disbursed by 30 June 2005. Outstanding contributions from Member States to SDS as at 31 December 2004 amounted to \$13.6 million, 99 per cent of which was related to the special assessed contribution of one Member State. Savings as a result of the liquidation of prior obligations stood at \$397,322, which could be used, together with the unspent balance of \$9,033, to cover cur-

rency exchange losses and replenishment of stocks.

The total value of procurement in support of SDS amounted to \$140,639,492. Contracts valued at \$12 million were awarded to companies from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and contracts for 1.9 million awarded to companies in Africa.

The Secretary-General asked the Assembly to note the completion of the strategic deployment programme, approve the use of savings and the unspent balance to cover losses on currency exchange and the replenishment of stocks, and the inclusion of SDS replenishment within the \$50 million commitment authority. He also asked that the Assembly authorize him, on an exceptional basis, and with ACABQ's concurrence, to enter into commitments over and above the \$50 million for the replenishment of SDS in respect of the start-up phase of a new peacekeeping mission, to be financed from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund.

ACABQ, in its April report [A/59/736/Add.2], recommended approval of the Secretary-General's recommendations.

The General Assembly took action on the recommendations in **resolution 59/299** of 22 June (see p. 145).

Ground and air transportation

ACABQ, in its April report [A/59/736], considered the variety of armoured personnel carriers used in missions, and efforts made to obtain them by negotiating contingent-owned equipment with troop- and police-contributing countries. A limited number of armoured personnel carriers reported as part of inventory were provided by troop-contributing countries, ownership of which was later transferred to the United Nations under the old methodology for reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment. ACABQ also noted the persistent use of outdated vehicles, which were expensive to maintain, and recommended that the cost-effectiveness of utilizing such vehicles be reviewed as a matter of priority.

ACABQ, having been informed that the use of representational vehicles was mission-specific, noted that in some missions two or more vehicles, including specially equipped armoured vehicles, were assigned to the Secretary-General's Special Representative and that other vehicles of both types were distributed among the civilian staff without a standard policy regarding their entitlement to or need for such vehicles. The Committee had also addressed that issue in its reports on the relevant peacekeeping operations. In view of the high cost involved, it was of the view that DPKO should develop a policy with regard to

the purchase and assignment of both standard civilian and specially equipped armoured vehicles, as well as representational vehicles. Representational and specially equipped vehicles, it stressed, should not be utilized as status symbols, but should be assigned on the basis of demonstrated need and in accordance with an established policy.

Regarding air transportation in peacekeeping missions, ACABQ analysed the costing structure relating to air operations contracts and efforts by DPKO to move away from the commercial industry approach of block-hours costing to one based on actual flight hours utilized. Noting that contracts were still being issued or renewed on the basis of block-hours costing if the terms were favourable to the Organization, the Committee urged a prudent approach that took into account the cooperation of vendors who had agreed to work with the Organization on the basis of the new costing structure. It requested DPKO to analyse the impact of the new pricing structure in order to assess its cost-effectiveness and to report thereon at the next opportunity.

The General Assembly, by **resolution 59/288 B** of 13 April (see p. 1471), took action on the 2004 OIOS report [YUN 2004, p. 101] on the audit of safeguarding air safety standards while procuring air services for United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Procurement

The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session, considered the OIOS report [YUN 2003, p. 95] on the procurement of goods and service through letters of assist and the Secretary-General's 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 101] and February 2005 [A/59/688] reports on procurement and contract management for peacekeeping operations. The February report examined developments relating to ethics guidance, assistance to newly established peacekeeping missions, procurement training, vendor management and other measures to improve procurement and contract management for peacekeeping operations.

The Secretariat had developed ethical guidelines for staff involved in the procurement process to assist those serving in peacekeeping missions to determine how to conduct themselves in dealing with suppliers and other entities. The Procurement Service also drafted, in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management and the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), a Declaration of Ethical Responsibilities, which addressed the issue of confidentiality and conflict of interest, and should be signed by all staff engaged in procurement activities. The Procurement Service was also promulgating a UN vendor

code of conduct, addressing the issue of corporate social responsibility, environmental and sustainable procurement and corruption, which would be communicated to all suppliers interested in doing business with the UN system. OLA was also coordinating an inter-agency working group to promulgate a revised United Nations General Conditions of Contract.

In addition, although the Procurement Service had released senior staff members to assist a number of peacekeeping missions, the retention of high-quality procurement staff for sustained periods in those missions remained an issue. The Secretariat was helping to develop a UN system-wide procurement training and certification programme to ensure consistency in knowledge and facilitate staff mobility between Headquarters and missions and within the UN system as a whole.

To streamline the approval process for field requirements, the Procurement Service was developing with DPKO and the Headquarters Committee on Contracts a standard personal delegation of authority document to be used across field missions and offices away from Headquarters. The revised delegation of authority, the level of which was raised to \$1 million, would be issued by the first quarter of 2005 for the procurement of "core requirements", essential goods and services, which, by their nature or owing to market conditions, lent themselves to local procurement.

The Procurement Service was working to reduce the lead times for the provision of goods and services to peacekeeping missions, and with OLA, to develop model lease and contract templates to facilitate the work of procurement officials at those missions. In addition to vendor performance reporting, which the Procurement Service required from peacekeeping missions for the purposes of vendor management and contract renewals, the Service was working with UN system organizations to enhance the functioning of the United Nations Global Marketplace through information-sharing among all participating organizations. The Global Marketplace, in use at the Secretariat since February 2004, would be introduced in peacekeeping missions in 2005. The observance of reporting requirements relating to vendor performance remained an issue in peacekeeping missions, but the Secretariat had instituted measures to improve compliance and all missions were required to complete quarterly evaluations on vendor performance levels for headquarters contracts. A comprehensive review of vendor management conducted in 2004 made recommendations for simplifying, streamlining and harmonizing the vendor registration process, and the Procure-

ment Service was developing, with other UN system organizations, the business process and implementing those recommendations. The new arrangements, which were to commence by 1 May, would significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of vendor management through standardized registration, reduce administrative duplication and institute dependable and professional evaluations of vendors' capabilities.

In March [A/59/722], ACABQ urged the Secretary-General to finalize, promulgate and implement expeditiously the guidelines on ethical principles and the declaration of independence and to report the results to the Assembly at its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session. It also recommended expeditious finalization and promulgation of the code of conduct for suppliers and the revised General Conditions, and that the Secretary-General report to the Assembly during the main part of its sixtieth (2005) session. ACABQ underlined the importance of revisiting procurement plans on a quarterly basis to ensure that they were updated in accordance with mission operational requirements, and the need to enforce the use of procurement plans and tools to facilitate effective and efficient procurement management. While welcoming the developments in respect of procurement lead times and model leases and contract templates, ACABQ recommended that, instead of across-the-board averages, benchmarks for lead times be established by clusters of commodities or services to provide realistic data and to better illustrate achievements in that regard. It encouraged DPKO and the Department of Management to review and streamline the vendor performance, monitoring and reporting process, and asked that information on the delegation of authority be provided to the Assembly at its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session.

Global procurement hub

As requested by ACABQ [YUN 2004, p. 101] and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 58/297 [ibid., p. 99], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [A/59/703] on the merit of establishing a global procurement hub for all peacekeeping missions at UNLB in Brindisi, Italy. The comprehensive review, conducted with the assistance of an external international consulting firm, assessed the implications of relocating the procurement and logistics function to UNLB, taking into consideration the current volatile operational environment and the evolving role of UNLB in support of field missions, particularly in the context of strategic deployment stock operations. It specifically examined the extent to which changes would translate into improved service

and support for peacekeeping missions, the re-allocation of responsibilities and transfer of skills, the interdependence between Headquarters-based procurement and logistics functions and those currently carried out at UNLB.

The review found that the relocation of functions would imply a division of the procurement function, and duplicate functions both at Headquarters and UNLB, reconfigure the procurement management structure and relocate or duplicate other related support functions, such as those of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts, the Office of Legal Affairs and accounts payable. Certain management and oversight functions, such as those provided by OIOS, might also need to be duplicated at Headquarters and UNLB. The relocation of the procurement function would also negatively affect communication with some outside interlocutors and the commercial section of Member States' consulates.

A survey of UNLB revealed that its existing infrastructure was inadequate to accommodate the functions and staff associated with the proposed procurement and logistics hub. The financial benefits of the relocation of the logistics and procurement functions from New York to UNLB would be limited, with modest savings in operating costs of less than five per cent and a return-on-investment period of nine years. Relocation would require significant reorganization at Headquarters and UNLB, and the terms of the memorandum of understanding with the host Government and the various domestic priorities of the region placed limitations on UNLB.

The Secretary-General concluded that a relocation of procurement and operational logistics functions to UNLB would have a negative impact on operational effectiveness and the financial case for such a move was weak. He was concerned that removal of critical logistics functions from the highly integrated structures in the Secretariat would negatively impact the Organization's overall capacity to rapidly and effectively deploy new missions and to provide effective logistical support to the 32 ongoing peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations.

ACABQ, in its April report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of UN peacekeeping operations [A/59/736], stated that notwithstanding the disadvantages described by the Secretary-General of relocating staff and related resources to UNLB, it was convinced that there was a greater potential to maximize the benefits from the considerable investment in information and communication technology (ICT) at UNLB and elsewhere. Further analysis should be made of how UNLB could best be utilized to provide efficient and economical ICT and other services for UN peace-

keeping and Headquarters clients, and the cost-effectiveness of reducing reliance on commercial providers in favour of increasing UNLB's role.

Restructuring issues

Responding to General Assembly decision 59/507 [YUN 2004, p. 94], requesting a report on the review of the management structure of all peacekeeping operations, the Secretary-General, in an April note [A/59/794], expressed regret that the Secretariat was unable to provide the report requested. The Secretariat was in the process of reconciling the staffing tables of all peacekeeping missions and consolidating data on staffing and organizational structures that were critical elements in the analysis required to produce the report. Once the data collection was completed, the comprehensive review and analysis would be undertaken and the report submitted to the Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth (2006) session.

ACABQ, in April [A/59/736], said that, while it understood the pressure of work under which the Secretariat found itself, such a review had little value if undertaken after the budgets and management structures had been approved and put in place. It recommended that the Secretariat proceed with the review, which should be completed in time for the next round of peacekeeping budgets preparation.

The Assembly, in section IV of **resolution 59/296** (see p. 133), requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to entrust to OIOS the conduct of a comprehensive management audit of DPKO practices and to review its management structure.

Personnel matters

During the year, the General Assembly considered a number of reports relating to personnel matters, including the Secretary-General's report on the DPKO training policy and evaluation system [A/58/753], the criteria used for the recruitment of support account posts [YUN 2004, p. 103], greater use of national staff in the field, taking into account the delegation of recruitment authority to field missions, including the fair and transparent recruitment procedures and monitoring mechanisms [A/58/764], measures that would better streamline the policy guidelines relating to the temporary duty assignment of staff in peacekeeping missions [YUN 2003, p. 99], the status of civilian rapid deployment roster, the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300- and 100-series appointments, and relevant sections of ACABQ report (see below). It also considered OIOS reports on the audit of the policies and

procedures for recruiting DPKO staff [YUN 2004, p. 103] and on the follow-up audit of DPKO policies and procedures for recruiting international civilian staff for field missions [ibid., p. 104].

The Assembly also considered the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse [A/59/782] (see p. 1526) and the OIOS report into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in MONUC [A/59/661] (see p. 118).

In considering those reports, ACABQ [A/59/736] recognized that the United Nations was developing a framework and methodology for evaluating training, the final model of which would be specifically suited to the organizational qualities and particular skill requirements of the United Nations and its peacekeeping activities and connected to existing staff evaluation. ACABQ considered it essential to have in place a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of training and to track competency gaps. It pointed out that training national staff of a particular mission for service in another was a new policy that should be thoroughly assessed and considered by the Assembly before being applied, since such staff would be serving as international staff and might be performing functions that could be carried out by national staff in that mission area. A better approach might be to reform the Field Service category of staff to meet the demands faced by peacekeeping operations.

Noting the Secretary-General's intention to review arrangements for regularizing the budgetary and technical support of the Galaxy e-staffing system and for transferring responsibility from DPKO to the Department of Management, ACABQ recommended that the lessons learned and experiences acquired during the development, implementation and roll-out phases of Galaxy by information technology specialists and users and applicants be fully documented and analysed. The experiences of other large organizations with similar systems should also be reviewed and consideration given to sharing the applications developed or acquired. The results should be reflected in the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly's sixtieth (2005) session, which should also evaluate the impact of the proposed changes on the UN's ICT strategy on interactions and interfaces with other systems, users and applicants. Special attention should be paid to the modalities of the transition and planning for a seamless change without disruption of services, and to a clear definition of the phases during which there would be an overlap of responsibilities between DPKO and the Department of Management. In addition, an analysis of the human resources requirements in terms of both UN staff and consul-

tants and other financial implications should be provided.

Concerning recruitment for field missions, ACABQ welcomed the Secretariat's intention to develop flexible and creative staffing strategies to expand the use of National Professional Officers in those missions, and encouraged it to review the current criteria and made proposals for consideration by the International Civil Service Commission.

On the question of sexual exploitation and abuse, ACABQ called for a comprehensive approach [A/C.4/59/L.21] to the problem for all UN activities, both at Headquarters and in the field, and for an analysis of the related resource requirements to implement a consistent policy in that area. It would await the results of that analysis and revert to the matter during consideration of the proposed programme budget and other relevant matters.

ACABQ was informed that arrangements with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the shared funding of the position of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General who led the humanitarian pillar and also served as Resident Coordinator had not yet been put into effect. Also, no formal agreement existed between DPKO and UNDP for the cost-sharing of Deputy Special Representative posts in peacekeeping missions, which were determined on a case-by-case basis. ACABQ saw no reason why the arrangements discussed with UNDP would not be applied to all missions concerned, irrespective of the level that was eventually determined for the posts. It expected that an undertaking that UNDP would fund the posts up to the Director (D-2) level would be confirmed and put into practice, and requested to be informed accordingly before the 2006/2007 budgets were submitted.

Staffing of field missions

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 59/266 [YUN 2004, p. 1418], the Secretary-General reported in April [A/59/762] on the staffing of field missions, including the use of 300 and 100 series appointments. As a follow-up to his 2004 report on the subject [YUN 2004, p. 105], the April report provided information on mission staff reappointed from 300 to 100 series contracts after reaching the four-year limit of their 300 series contracts and made proposals for the further use of those appointment instruments in field missions.

The report observed that, as at 30 June 2005, 346 international staff had reached, or exceeded four years of service under the 300 series appointment of limited duration, and were consid-

ered for reappointment under the 100 series contract, in accordance with the criteria set out in section X of resolution 59/266, that their functions be reviewed and found necessary and that their performance be confirmed as fully satisfactory. As a result of that review, 287 staff met the criteria set out in resolution 59/266, 48 did not, due either to anticipated downsizing or mission closure and remained under the 300 series contract, 4 reached the mandatory age of separation, 5 had not met the necessary performance criteria and 2 were still pending consideration.

DPKO proposed that the 100 series appointment be used for the employment of staff performing functions that were not, by their nature, temporary or limited in duration, and for which the Department had a continuing need for one year or longer, and the 300 series appointment for functions of a temporary nature, with a limited duration of under one year, such as electoral assistance, border monitoring and short-term projects. The use of the 100 series appointment for functions of a continuing nature would also help to harmonize the conditions of service between different groups of staff in field missions, including Secretariat field staff and their counterparts from UN agencies, funds and programmes. The Secretary-General sought the Assembly's agreement to that request and, pending consideration of the proposal, approval to continue reappointing serving staff under 100 series contracts on a case-by-case basis after they had reached the maximum period of service permitted under a 300 series appointment, provided there was a continuing need for their services and they had a fully satisfactory performance record.

ACABQ [A/59/736] was of the opinion that the conditions of service for all staff in field missions should be harmonized and looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on the subject before considering the next round of peacekeeping financing proposals. In the meantime, it recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to make 100 series appointments as he had requested, trusting that the criteria would be rigorous and consistently applied. However, no action should be taken on the general issue of appointing staff under the 100 series, pending consideration of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report.

Mission subsistence allowance

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/258 [YUN 2003, p. 97], the Secretary-General submitted, in February [A/59/698], the OIOS report on the audit of mission subsistence allowance (MSA) rates, the daily allowance paid to

United Nations international civilian staff, military observers and civilian police in special peacekeeping missions to cover subsistence costs. OIOS reviewed those rates in several of the largest peacekeeping missions and followed up on recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's 2001 report on the subject [YUN 2001, p. 104]. OIOS noted, among other things, that its views and those of the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) and DPKO differed markedly concerning the most appropriate relationship between MSA and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rates. OIOS maintained that MSA rates should always be lower than DSA rates, while OHRM argued that the conditions of life in many duty stations were sufficiently arduous to warrant higher MSA rates.

During extended discussions with OIOS, OHRM expressed strong resistance to lowering MSA rates automatically when DSA rates dropped. Consequently, there was no point in OIOS making recommendations that would continue to be resisted strongly by departments. It noted that the comprehensive review requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 85] of the allowance structure, which was to take into account the adverse conditions of life and work affecting personnel in UN peacekeeping operations and related request that a fair service package be developed, had not been undertaken. To resolve its differences of opinion with OHRM and DPKO regarding MSA, OIOS recommended that the comprehensive review be undertaken in a spirit of openness and transparency, and that the review consider establishing a two-component MSA structure, with one component for subsistence (food, accommodation and incidentals) and the other to compensate for particular living conditions in duty stations. OHRM and DPKO had accepted that recommendation.

OIOS also recommended that OHRM undertake a monthly comparative analysis of MSA and DSA rates, and that the difference should trigger the adjustment of MSA rates in the mission concerned. OHRM should also apply a consistent policy in promulgating revised MSA rates, by making

them effective from the first day of the month following the issuance of its final MSA report.

The Secretary-General, in his comments on the OIOS report [A/59/698/Add.1], agreed with most of the recommendations. However, regarding the recommendation calling for a monthly analysis of the two rates, with consequential adjustment of MSA rates, he noted that the two rates served different purposes. While DSA was designed to cover expenditures incurred during short-term official travel under normal circumstances, MSA was defined as the total UN contribution towards living expenses incurred in connection with a special mission assignment. He did not feel that there was justification for using an across-the-board formula to determine MSA by reference to DSA. The Secretary-General noted, however, that for monitoring purposes only, OHRM was undertaking monthly comparisons of both rates in localities where there were special peacekeeping missions.

UN Volunteers

The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-ninth (2005) session, considered the Secretary-General's report on the participation of UN Volunteers in peacekeeping operations [YUN 2001, p. 814] and the related ACABQ report [ibid., p. 94], as well as the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the evaluation of the Programme [YUN 2003, p. 1388] and the Secretary-General's comments thereon [A/59/68/Add.1].

ACABQ, in its April report [A/59/736], while noting the successful cooperation between UN Volunteers and DPKO, observed that the functions and responsibilities of volunteers were not always clearly defined. It recommended that the Programme and DPKO define clear parameters of employment for volunteers working with the Department and that the Assembly request the Programme to intensify its follow-up with the Office of Legal Affairs to ensure that the privileges and immunities of volunteers were clearly defined. It agreed with JIU that UNDP should introduce a regular cycle for the Programme to ensure objective risk control and management oversight.