

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-