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YEAR IN REVIEW

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2007: a year of innovation, expansion and restructuring

During a year in which the international community looked to the United Nations to launch peace operations in increasing numbers, size and complexity, the UN headquarters peace operations architecture underwent profound changes, with more to come, intended to enhance field work in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

UN peace operations have become essential instruments for the international community in maintaining international peace and security. The challenges and the numbers are unprecedented: UN peacekeeping currently maintains 20 operations on four continents with more than 100,000 men and women in the field. The budget for peacekeeping is expected to grow from US\$5 to US\$7 billion over the 2007-8 biennium, US\$1.28 billion of that for Darfur alone. New UN political missions were also deployed to the field, even as existing operations in Africa, Asia and the Middle East faced continuing challenges in preventing and resolving conflict.

Once a mechanism for keeping the peace after a conflict had ended, UN peacekeeping operations and personnel are now being asked to deploy into still fractious environments, and are expected to protect civilians, mitigate conflicts before they widen, and keep societies and regions from further disintegration.

The growing challenges stretched the capacity of the Organization and demanded innovation: in his first year in office, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon initiated a comprehensive programme of internal restructuring, reorganizing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and establishing a separate Department of Field Support. This enabled a major augmentation of resources along with new capacities and integrated structures to match the growing complexity of mandated activities and to ensure unity of command and integration of effort.

The Secretary-General also proposed strengthening and reorganizing the Department of Political Affairs to bolster the ability of the United Nations to practice preventive diplomacy in order to keep conflicts from escalating into larger and costlier tragedies.

Partnerships

In the field, other innovations have included unique new partnerships with multilateral and regional organizations. The deteriorating security situation in Darfur, for example, and the difficulties faced by the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) required the UN first

Secretary-General announced “a new and profoundly challenging chapter in the history of United Nations peacekeeping.”

As the conflict continued in Darfur, the UN sought contributions to one of its largest-ever missions, to total some 26,000 troops and police, along with the necessary assets for a robust force, while building a complete infrastructure capable of supporting a major complex operation in an inhospitable environment.

By early 2008, however, key elements for deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation were still not in place. Security in Darfur and neighboring Chad



Major General L.K.F. Aprezi (right), Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), shaking hands with Marthinus Vanstaden, South African officer leading the first group of UN military and police officers sent to support AMIS, on arrival in El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan, 28 December 2006. (UN Photo by Fred Noy)

to provide vital support and consequently, following protracted negotiations with the Government of Sudan, to deploy UN troops on the ground in the first United Nations-African Union hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

On 31 December, African Union troops exchanged green berets for blue, and the

was deteriorating dramatically and in January, a peacekeeping convoy was attacked. The host Government of Sudan had still not agreed to the composition of the force, nor on all its functions and accoutrements. Member States were not volunteering essential transportation and aviation assets – such as tactical and transport helicopters –

necessary for the forces to respond to crises and resupply far-flung units.

“Without decisive progress” warned Jean-Marie Guéhenno, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, “we will indeed face dire consequences for the international efforts to help the Sudanese bring peace and stability to Darfur.”

Meanwhile, on the political front, UN and AU envoys travelled to Libya, Southern Sudan and Darfur in a zigzag race of shuttle diplomacy to try to secure a lasting peace agreement between and among the Government of Sudan and some 20 different movements in Darfur.

At the same time, the largest humanitarian relief effort in the world struggled to maintain an acceptable level of care for the hundreds of thousands of victims of the conflict as the security situation worsened and attacks on aid workers increased.

New partnerships and the parallel employment of political and peacekeeping tracks, ongoing while UN humanitarian

operations provide aid, became a hallmark of UN involvement to build peace in 2007.

To the west of Sudan, the Security Council authorized another joint effort in Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT), where the UN is supplying civilian police monitors and trainers, while the European Union (EU) will provide troops for security, in order to contain the spillover of conflict from Darfur that sent hundreds of thousands over state borders into tense, overcrowded refugee camps. A UN peacebuilding office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) assisted, meanwhile, in the establishment of a national dialogue aimed at quelling internal political tensions.

In Afghanistan, cooperation between UNAMA, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and provincial Afghan authorities has proved particularly effective in strengthening the capacity of local governance. In Kosovo, NATO and UNMIK have continued to work side by side to provide stability under the terms of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Peacekeeping at work

In 2007, a record number of peacekeepers - expected to reach 140,000 in 2008 - maintained stability in several other once-volatile countries. Nearly two-thirds (119) of all UN Member States were sending troops and/or police to UN missions. More women peacekeepers were deployed than ever, including a 125-member police unit from India sent to Liberia, a woman chief and deputy chief of mission in Liberia, and deputy chiefs in Burundi and Sudan. The officer-in-charge of the newly created Department of Field Support at UN Headquarters is a woman, as is the new chief of staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Several missions made significant progress in fulfilling their mandates: in Liberia, with UNMIL’s robust forces helping guarantee security and stability, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf’s Government made strides in consolidating peace, promoting economic recovery and fostering reconciliation. Still to be created are an army, police and rehabili-



While mandated to ensure a secure and stable environment in Haiti, MINUSTAH’s well-equipped peacekeepers demonstrate flexibility by quickly shifting gears to undertake life-saving humanitarian operations, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 30 October 2007. (UN Photo by Marco Dormino)

tated justice system that can stand on their own and serve all Liberians equally.

In Haiti, UN peacekeepers – both military and police – worked side-by-side with the Haitian National Police (HNP) to improve security, particularly in urban areas previously controlled by gangs. Joint UN-HNP operations led to hundreds of arrests and allowed the local police to patrol for the first time in years. The stability paved the way for UN agencies and their humanitarian partners to return to once off-limits neighbourhoods, where they helped to restore a long-sought sense of normalcy.

In Timor-Leste, an immediate task of the United Nations Integrated Mission (UNMIT) was to ensure the restoration and maintenance of public security, fractured during the 2006 crisis, through interim law enforcement by international police, while conducting a screening process for the national police. More progress came with the successful completion of the UN-supported presidential and parliamentary elections during 2007.

Southern Lebanon enjoyed a year of relative calm under the watchful eyes of a re-enforced UNIFIL, following the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. But while the south remained stable, a political deadlock continued and tensions remained high at the national level. Through the Secretary-General's active diplomacy and that of his Beirut-based political envoy, the UN sought to encourage compromise and respect for Lebanese sovereignty, independence and stability.

Other missions encountered new developments on the ground that prompted major rethinking and flexibility: in Côte d'Ivoire, for example, UN peacekeepers (UNOCI) re-deployed from the former Zone of Confidence following the Ouagadougou Agreement of March 2007, by which government and opposition forces agreed to the consolidation of a national administration across the country. Anticipated national elections were postponed, and mobile courts began the process of identification of voters.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, nearly all of MONUC's 17,000 peacekeepers moved to the eastern Kivus area where violence threatened to undo the national consolidation that had culminated in democratic elections in 2006. Throughout 2007, the mission worked tirelessly to avert further bloodshed between rival groups, while promoting their integration into the national army and helping the newly-elected Congolese authorities extend their administration over the vast country in an effective and democratic manner.

And as the UN peacekeeping operation (UNMIK) continued to administer Kosovo for its ninth year on the ground, UN negotiators based in Vienna drew up a detailed plan for the province's "supervised" independence. However, Belgrade and Pristina, as well as key Security Council members, remained in fundamental disagreement over Kosovo's final status. The stalemate continued as the year – and the last round of negotiations between the parties and the "Troika" of the European Union, Russia and the United States – ended and Kosovar parliamentarians moved towards a unilateral declaration of independence.

In Ethiopia and Eritrea, the tense border dispute remained at an impasse during 2007 and was deemed by the UN "a potentially unstable security situation". The mandate of the UN Mission (UNMEE), which monitors the cease-fire reached in 2000, was extended twice in the past year, with the Security Council urging both countries to take concrete steps to implement border demarcation.

Contemporary peacekeeping missions can find themselves operating in volatile environments threatened by armed groups remaining outside the established peace process. In 2007, 85 UN personnel died on peace operations.

UN envoys on the political track for peace

As UN peacekeepers worked to stabilize some situations, in others UN diplomatic envoys applied their impartial hands to

either cool simmering conflicts, or to resolve long-held disagreements.

In the DRC, UN political mediation was ongoing at the same time as peacekeeping. In October, the Secretary-General dispatched a senior political envoy to help secure an agreement – the Nairobi Communiqué of 9 November – between the DRC and Rwanda to contain the militant groups fighting in the Congo's Kivus region.

In northern Uganda, another UN political envoy worked to rebuild confidence in peace talks between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army aimed at ending nearly two decades of fighting. By the year's end, tensions persisted, although new agreements had been reached and a 2006 cease-fire remained in effect, providing relief for the civilian population and political space for peace and justice efforts to continue.

UN political efforts were also put to the test in Myanmar, where missions by the Secretary-General's special envoy were at the forefront of international moves to promote national reconciliation, democracy and respect for human rights following the response of the authorities to a wave of demonstrations that underscored the urgent need for progress there.

In Somalia, where fighting and massive displacement of civilians intensified, the UN's political envoy worked to encourage an inclusive political process that could stabilize a fledgling transitional government, while the Security Council authorized a new African Union mission (UNISOM) in the country and called for contingency planning for a possible UN peacekeeping operation.

Three rounds of UN-mediated discussion between Morocco and Polisario, beginning in New York in June of 2007, marked the first direct talks in seven years to break the longstanding impasse on the sovereignty of Western Sahara, where UN peacekeepers have been deployed since 1991.

In Iraq, one of the most difficult operating environments anywhere for the Organization, the United Nations worked to foster regional engagement through initiatives such as the International Compact with Iraq. The recently strengthened mandate of the UN Assistance Mission (UNAMI) envisions a greater UN role in spurring dialogue and reconciliation between Iraqis, as well as cooperation between Iraq and its neighbors.

Other challenges and developments

In early 2007, a UN political mission was deployed to Nepal (UNMIN), to monitor the management of arms and armed personnel of the Nepal Army and the Maoist army, while assisting in the preparation of a constituent assembly election that will be critical to the success of the 2006 peace agreement. Despite delays in the vote and an increasingly complex political landscape in the country, a new consensus was reached to hold the elections in April 2008.

During another trying year in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Secretary-General worked through the Quartet and through UNSCO, the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (based in Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and Ramallah), to lend support to peace efforts and to help ease the suffering of people on the ground. In the face of new tensions, the UN continued to promote a comprehensive peace settlement and realization of a two-State solution. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) delivered emergency humanitarian assistance to one million impoverished people in Gaza and the West Bank.

Afghanistan continued to move from a period of long-term conflict to a progressive Islamic democracy, with the help of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which during the past year opened eight new field offices across the country, in spite of the tenuous security situation and a marked increase in suicide attacks against both foreigners and Afghans.

In preparation of the upcoming elections in Cyprus, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General held numerous meetings with envoys of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, to encourage the implementation of the agreement of 8 July 2006 on a framework for a political process.

While the Secretary-General lent his weight to solving the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, he also made a special visit to Southern Sudan to remind the world that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south that ended 17 years of conflict in 2005 needed full support to ensure peace throughout the country. The 10,000 peacekeepers of the UN peacekeeping mission (UNMIS) continued to monitor implementation of the agreement on the ground.

With Burundi's progress towards stability faltering over the past year, the Security Council met four times to keep this tiny country from sliding back into ethnic strife. To help support the country's recovery, a UN Integrated Office (BINUB) was established in January.

Burundi was also the focus of attention for the Peacebuilding Commission, along with Sierra Leone, where 2007 saw positive developments, including parliamentary and presidential elections, as well as progress in security sector reform, assisted by the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL). The Peacebuilding Commission, established in 2005 to oversee post-conflict recovery, recently added Guinea-Bissau and Nepal as countries for which it will coordinate support.

Sexual violence

As a grim sideshow to the military-political tension in the DRC, a brutal "war on women" - most visible in Eastern Congo - confronted peacekeepers and humanitarian workers with a more difficult and gruesome aspect to the debilitating conflict. Rape perpetrated on thousands of victims in the area has

been reported to peacekeepers, who parked tanks outside villages in a gesture of protection and who have reported perpetrators in the armed forces. But without a functioning justice system, the DRC and other countries must be supported by the wider UN system to end impunity for these barbaric practices. Currently the UN in the DRC is working to assist victims, train judiciary, ensure prosecution of perpetrators and raise the issue to the highest levels of government for action. In 2008, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was to launch a major initiative to combat violence against women around the world.

Restructuring at HQ

In July, the former Department of Peacekeeping Operations was restructured into two separate departments: DPKO focuses on providing strategic direction, management and guidance to peacekeeping operations, while the new Department for Field Support (DFS) is to provide operational support and expertise in the areas of personnel, finance and budget, communications, information technology and logistics. Added to DPKO's portfolio are a new Rule of Law division and a larger military adviser's office. "We are making progress in professionalizing peacekeeping", Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, told a General Assembly committee in October 2007. "However, as we continue to meet the surge in complex demands, it is essential that we remain cognisant of the new challenges looming on the horizon."

In other peacekeeping related matters in 2007, the General Assembly adopted a strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN staff and related personnel. The result of some two years of work between DPKO, DFS, UN agencies and Member States, the strategy is a critical aspect of the UN's ongoing and multi-pronged efforts to improve the conduct and discipline of field staff launched over the past two years. (The UN Mission in Liberia reported an 80 percent decline in sexual exploitation and abuse allega-

tions in the second half of 2007. And in Haiti, a contingent of Sri Lankan peacekeepers were sent home after allegations of widespread misbehavior.)

In October, the Secretary-General proposed a plan to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs, saying that preventing crises before they erupt is “among the smartest investments” the

UN can make. The proposals — which remained at year’s end under consideration by Member States — would make DPA more mobile and field oriented, thus better positioned to mount diplomatic initiatives and to provide support to field offices and envoys.

The surge in demand for UN peace operations and their increasing com-

plexity and size has required that the UN seek ever more flexible, creative and cost-effective approaches. The changes and innovations begun in 2007 will certainly be tested as huge challenges remain in 2008 for resolving ongoing conflicts and preventing new ones. ■

Strengthening the Department of Political Affairs: a new focus on conflict prevention and resolution

Using diplomatic means to prevent and resolve violent conflict is a Charter responsibility of the United Nations. Indeed, UN peace and political envoys shuttling into conflict zones are often at the forefront of international efforts to end bloodshed or nip tensions in the bud - before they escalate into larger and costlier tragedies. But to be more effective at this core aspect of its work, the UN needs to strengthen the key structures underpinning its ability to detect potential crises and to respond to them with timely diplomatic initiatives.

This is precisely the idea behind a major proposal tabled by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in late 2007 to strengthen and reorganize the Department of Political Affairs (DPA). “The reforms to our peacekeeping apparatus were an essential first step,” he told the General Assembly. “Now focus must be put on the Organization’s capacity to prevent and resolve conflict”. DPA is the Secretary-General’s main support structure for his use of mediation and UN “good offices” to help Member States peacefully manage tensions.

The US\$21 million reform plan, which at year’s end remained under the consideration of Member States, would reverse chronic resource shortages which have plagued DPA and help to transform this strategic part of the UN Secretariat into a more mobile and field-oriented platform for preventive

diplomacy. It constitutes the first major overhaul of the department since its establishment in 1992.

DPA, primarily through its regional divisions, is the main support structure for UN preventive diplomacy and currently provides advice and support to numerous envoys with assignments around the world, including those active on Myanmar, northern Uganda, Darfur and Western Sahara. At the same time, DPA closely assists the Secretary-General in his day-to-day diplomacy while managing and overseeing complex field-based political missions for Iraq, Lebanon and the Middle East peace process, Nepal, Somalia, West Africa, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic.

Yet as these and other responsibilities have grown, resources have remained largely stagnant over the years, thus stretching DPA’s capabilities too thinly and, in the words of the Secretary-General, “hampering the ability of the department to do the kind of analysis, diplomatic engagement and coordination that is required for successful and proactive preventive diplomacy.”

The Secretary-General therefore proposed to bolster DPA’s regional divisions substantially so they can engage more directly and consistently with the issues and actors in the field, including with partners in regional organizations.

The largest share of the additional staff provided for under the plan would be located on these regional desks, which would also undergo restructuring, and receive increased funding for travel by officials to the areas of potential conflict around the world.



Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe arriving in Mogadishu, Somalia, in June 2007. (UN Photo)

Another change designed to bring DPA closer to where its assistance might be of help to Member States is the gradual establishment of a limited network of offices in the field with a focus on regional dynamics, as opposed to individual country situations. The offices – loosely patterned on the current UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the recently-established UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) – would serve as forward platforms for preventive diplomacy, when and where requested by the Member States.

Along with needed enhancements in departmental management and oversight capacity, DPA would also be strengthened in the areas of electoral assistance, mediation support and policy planning – the latter to permit a stronger focus on cross-cutting issues

that are increasingly intertwined with conflict, such as transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. Mediation support is already an expanding area for DPA, as indicated by the activities of its recently-established Mediation Support Unit (MSU). As part of its rapidly expanding activity, MSU is establishing the first UN “stand-by” mediation team, which is expected to be operational in early 2008 as a resource to UN and non-UN envoys around the world.

In a November briefing to the members of the General Assembly’s budget committee, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, noted growing UN political responsibilities and opportunities on the horizon in Iraq, Somalia, Lebanon and Darfur, as well as a number of recent cases that showed the value of proac-

tive preventive diplomacy, from Nepal to Myanmar to northern Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. “The Secretary-General’s vision is for a UN actively trying to resolve problems in the world. In the peace and security area, we have come to realize that a stronger and more active political department is critical to our ability to prevent and resolve armed conflict,” he said.

Mr. Pascoe estimated the cost of the proposed changes to DPA to amount to less than one percent of the expense of deploying a hybrid peacekeeping force to Darfur. A modest investment in additional UN capacity in this area could have a potentially huge payoff for the UN. “One success,” Pascoe told the committee, “will pay the bill 10 or a hundred times over.” ■

Peacekeeping restructures to strengthen field operations

The unprecedented growth of peacekeeping over the last few years sparked a dramatic change in the framework, architecture and policy of UN peacekeeping.

“This capacity for innovation has been a lifeline for United Nations peacekeeping,” Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, told a General Assembly

committee in February 2007, as he introduced the restructuring plans which the General Assembly approved in July.

“Large, multilateral organizations such as the United Nations are often criticized for being rigid and static in their approach and processes, but when I look at peacekeeping, I see an organization that is constantly evolving and developing in response to external events,” he told the Special Political Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

The transformation of UN peacekeeping has roots in the so-called “Brahimi Report,” released in 2000, and “Peace Operations 2010,” published in 2005 by Mr. Guéhenno to increase the professionalism, management and efficiency of peacekeeping. But it was in 2007 that the most far-reaching reform was carried out.

In order to meet burgeoning demands, in 2007 Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended a realignment of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, separating the support side by creating



Assistant Secretary-General Jane Holl-Lute of the Department of Field Support in an observation tower in Qalat, Afghanistan. She visited UNAMA in December 2007. (UN Photo)

the Department of Field Support (DFS). This restructuring, approved in mid-2007 by the General Assembly, marked a pivotal step towards enabling the United Nations as a whole to meet the increasing challenges of new peace operations with unparalleled and unprecedented scope, complexity, and size.

At the time of the Assembly's decision, Mr. Ban said it would "strengthen the capacity of the Organization to manage and sustain peace operations."

DFS is responsible for providing expertise and support in the areas of personnel, budget and finance, communications, information technology, and logistics. This involves rapidly deploying qualified people to the field, while providing the supplies, transportation, and services they need to get the job done.

This is no small task considering that DFS is responsible for supporting over 100,000 peacekeepers, military police, and civilians working in 20 missions. Those missions used more than 200 aircraft and thousands of vehicles – all of which require more than US\$1 million worth of fuel every day.

Vital communications tools used by missions extend beyond e-mail and telephone technology to include hundreds of satellite earth stations, thousands of satellite telephones, and tens of thousands of radios. DFS not only gets this equipment in place, it makes sure that it functions well since failure could mean the difference between life and death.

In order to reduce overheads and ensure that resources go where they are most needed, the two departments share important functions, including the executive office, the chief of staff, senior appointments, conduct and discipline, training, public affairs, the situation centre, and audit functions.

The restructuring is making it possible not only to better assist and protect those who suffer the ravages of conflict, but also to ensure that UN field operations are both cost-effective and efficient.

But the reform process was not limited to enhancing logistical support for operations; it also fostered specialization in emerging areas, including through the creation of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, which brings together DPKO's police division; judicial, legal and correctional units; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR); the mine action service, and security sector reform functions.

During 2007, the departments had to take on the challenge of "building the ship while sailing it", taking a head-on approach to the restructuring process while having their hands full with planning, equipping and meeting deployment schedules for two of the most complex and challenging operations in UN history: Darfur and Chad/Central African Republic, both located in some of the most inhospitable terrain in the centre of Africa, where there is a lack of infrastructure and an excess of security threats.

The restructuring process will continue to require significant investments of time, effort, and resources. By March 2008, the selection process for 52 new positions and the establishment of the six Integrated Operational Teams, four

for Africa, one for Europe and Latin America and a final one for Asia and Middle East Division are expected to be completed.

Both DPKO and DFS are committed to ensuring that the restructuring of headquarters peacekeeping capacities will be fully in place by June 2008 – strengthening existing peacekeeping missions and enabling its peacekeepers to meet tomorrow's challenges.

"It is already possible to see that the establishment of DFS is enhancing field support to our blue helmets on the ground," according to the acting head of DFS, Assistant Secretary-General Jane Holl-Lute. "In combination with other initiatives, it is enabling us to identify unanticipated needs earlier, all of which lead to better direction, better 'backstopping' and better oversight."

The flexibility and responsiveness of the new peacekeeping architecture will help meet the Secretary-General's overall goal of strengthening the UN's ability "to play its role to the fullest extent in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding." ■



Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, addresses a Security Council meeting on women, peace and security at UN Headquarters in New York on 23 October 2007. (UN Photo by Evan Schneider)

The United Nations and African Union forge a new partnership in Darfur

The continued cycles of violence and human misery in Darfur underscored the urgency of international efforts to stabilize the situation on the ground and provide an opportunity to pave the way for a lasting peace agreement.

Recognizing the pressing need to bolster the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in Darfur, and in light of the Government of Sudan's steadfast opposition to a peacekeeping operation undertaken solely by the UN as envisaged in Security Council resolution 1706 (2006), the UN embarked on an alternative, innovative approach to try to begin to stabilize the region through the phased strengthening of AMIS, before the transfer of authority to a joint African Union/United Nations peacekeeping operation.

The first phase of UN augmentation of AMIS – the Light Support Package (LSP) – assisted AMIS in the second

half of the year in establishing an integral command and control structure, and increased the effectiveness of AU operations, providing 105 military staff officers, 33 civilian police and 48 civilians (logisticians, humanitarians, and public information and civil affairs officers). Also included were 36 armoured personnel carriers, medicine, sleeping bags, night vision goggles and generators.

The second phase – called the Heavy Support Package (HSP) – was designed not only to add to military and police numbers, but also to support AMIS in such areas as civil affairs, humanitarian liaison, public information and mine action, as well as to assist the Darfur peace process. It consisted of 2,250 military personnel, 301 police (unarmed), 420 police from 'Formed Police Units' (armed), 1,136 civilians and 984 mission staff to support the military and police detachments. However, by the end of the year, while the LSP had been fully de-

ployed, the HSP had not and its numbers became subsumed in the deployment of the hybrid peacekeeping operation.

The plan for joint UN-AU peacekeeping in the region was officially sanctioned on 31 July 2007 when the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1769, authorizing the establishment of the UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur, referred to by its acronym UNAMID, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter for an initial period of 12 months. The resolution placed the protection of civilians as its core mandate, as well as contributing to security for humanitarian assistance, monitoring and verifying implementation of agreements, assisting an inclusive political process, contributing to the promotion of human rights and rule of law, and monitoring and reporting on the situation along the borders with Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR).



Soldiers from the joint United Nations - African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) peacekeeping force guard a supply convoy in Darfur, Sudan, 13 January 2008. (UN Photo by David Manyua)

At full deployment, UNAMID will be composed of almost 20,000 troops, more than 6,000 police, and a significant civilian component, and as such will become one of the largest UN peacekeeping missions in history.

In identifying troop contributors for UNAMID, the UN and AU have focused on ensuring that they have the required capabilities to perform their mandated tasks and are able to deploy in a timely manner. The two organizations have also sought to assemble a balanced force that would respect the predominantly "African character" criterion referred to in resolution 1769, while retaining both the impartiality and the competency required to complete this challenging mission.

Resolution 1769 also set out specific benchmarks that were successfully met, such as the establishment of the missions' management and command and control structures by October 2007, and the assumption of operational command over LSP, HSP and AMIS by the end of the year.

In addition, the appointments of key senior staff, including Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada (Republic of the Congo), his deputy Henry Anyidoho (Ghana), Force Commander General Martin Luther Agwai (Nigeria), and Police Commissioner Michael J. Fryer (South Africa) were completed in consultation with the African Union.

However, serious challenges to the swift and effective deployment of peacekeepers emerged in the second half of 2007, especially concerning the Government of Sudan's objection to certain non-African units planned for the force, including an infantry battalion from Thailand, the force reserve/special forces and sector reserve companies from Nepal, and the Nordic engineering company. These objections contradicted an agreement reached between President Bashir and the Security Council on 17 June 2007 in Khartoum accepting AU/UN plans for peacekeeping in Darfur without preconditions. In addition, despite repeated and

detailed technical explanations, the Government of Sudan persisted in imposing administrative obstacles that frustrated UNAMID's speedy deployment by preventing the acquisition of land and paralyzing customs clearance. It also continued to withhold permission for the mission to conduct night flights – a fundamental prerequisite to the effective functioning of UNAMID.

Further challenges were encountered in securing the necessary aviation and transportation units for UNAMID from Member States, despite intensive public and private diplomacy from the Secretary-General down, which emphasized that without the one heavy and one medium ground transport unit, three military utility aviation units (18 helicopters in total) and one light tactical helicopter unit (six helicopters), UNAMID's effectiveness would be severely curtailed.

Violence on the ground in Darfur, and especially the marked deterioration towards the end of the year, continued to drive civilians from their homes, with almost 290,000 displaced in 2007. Although clashes continued between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and rebel movements, fighting also erupted due to increasing inter-tribal tensions, a new and ominous dynamic in the conflict.

This had a direct and negative effect on the humanitarian situation in Darfur, which continued to be extremely fragile during the year, characterized by ongoing armed clashes, continuous displacement, increased violence inside the IDP camps, and seriously constrained humanitarian access to a growing number of conflict affected people. At the same time, violence against humanitarian workers perpetrated by all parties continues unabated, leading to considerable constraints on humanitarian access, and more importantly to a significant reduction in the quality of humanitarian operations that needed supervision and follow-up.

These problems persisted right up to the end of the year. By the time of the trans-



A participant sleeps on board a UN airplane taking him to the Darfur Peace Talks in Sirte, Libya, 25 October 2007. (UN Photo by Fred Noy)

fer of authority on 31 December 2007, UNAMID was, as expected, short of its full capacity, with just over 9,000 personnel in uniform on the ground in Darfur, including approximately 6,800 contingent military personnel, over 650 staff officers or military observers, and over 1,500 law enforcement personnel. This included units from Bangladesh, China, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Africa.

The start of the deployment of a robust peacekeeping mission in Darfur complemented efforts on the political front. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and AU Special Envoy for Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim, undertook intensive shuttle diplomacy throughout the year in pursuit of a political settlement to the Darfur crisis through negotiations aimed at achieving a peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Darfuri movements. The peace process entered a new phase on 27 October 2007, with the start of peace talks in Sirte, Libya. This was followed by high-level contacts with the Darfur movements, aimed at consolidating their positions and representation before face-to-face negotiations, expected in early 2008. ■

Slow progress for Sudan's peace agreement

Continued difficulties with the implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005 came to a head on 11 October, when the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of Southern Sudan froze participation of its top officials in the Government of National Unity (GoNU) in Khartoum, complaining that President Omar Al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) was failing to live up to its commitments under the peace agreement. The SPLM cited concerns especially pertaining to border demarcation, the disputed status of the area of Abyei, redeployment of troops, transparency of oil revenues, and preparations for a census and elections. The deadlock also underscored a delay in the recommended reshuffle of SPLM ministers in the GoNU.

On 16 October, President Al-Bashir announced the expected SPLM reshuffle, but the standoff continued. Following high-level talks, a six-member

joint committee of the two parties (NCP-SPLM) was set up to resolve their differences.

The political impasse finally came to an end when the six-member committee completed its CPA report on the 10 December. The Presidency endorsed its recommendations on 11 December and First Vice-President and President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir agreed to direct his absent officials to rejoin the GoNU.

Among other issues, the Presidency agreed to complete redeployment of forces to the north and south, securing the oil areas by Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), and provide the necessary funds for the Ad Hoc Border Committee and the population census. The status of the disputed area Abyei was left in the hands of the Presidency, which was due to begin discussions later in December.

From the start of the crisis, UNMIS intensified its contacts with the parties to

the CPA, including President Bashir and First Vice-President Kiir, and urged them to preserve the CPA through dialogue. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with Mr. Kiir at UN Headquarters in New York in November to discuss differences between the two parties.

A CPA deadline for the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to deploy north of the so-called '1-1-56 boundary line' and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to deploy south of the '1-1-56 line' by 9 July 2007 came and went without the necessary troop movements taking place. The SAF claimed as a reason the need to protect the oilfields in the area until the arrival of JIUs (comprised of SAF and SPLA), while for their part, the SPLA cited logistical problems as well as the absence of the JIUs. In an effort to address the situation, UNMIS has been coordinating international support to speed up JIU deployment, now more than a year behind schedule. Towards the end of the year, agreement in the Cease-fire Political Commission on new deadlines for transfer of security in the oil areas to the JIUs seemed to indicate progress. However there remained work ahead to complete the deployment of the JIUs and enable them to fully assume their responsibilities.

Against this backdrop, UNMIS continued to assist the parties in implementing other crucial aspects of the CPA. Returns of the displaced – vital for the census and elections – continued throughout 2007, although returnee numbers remained limited by weak infrastructure and lack of service provision in host communities. Some 44,610 internally displaced persons (IDPs), or 70 percent of the UN target for 2007, returned before the rainy season began in June. In addition, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted some 66,000 refugees to return by air and road from five neighbouring countries.

Paving the way for returns, UNMIS mine action teams cleared over 1,000



A data collector is filling out the form of a Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) candidate for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in the Fatashar Omdurman pre-registration site in Khartoum, Sudan, 13 December 2006. (UN Photo by Fred Noy)

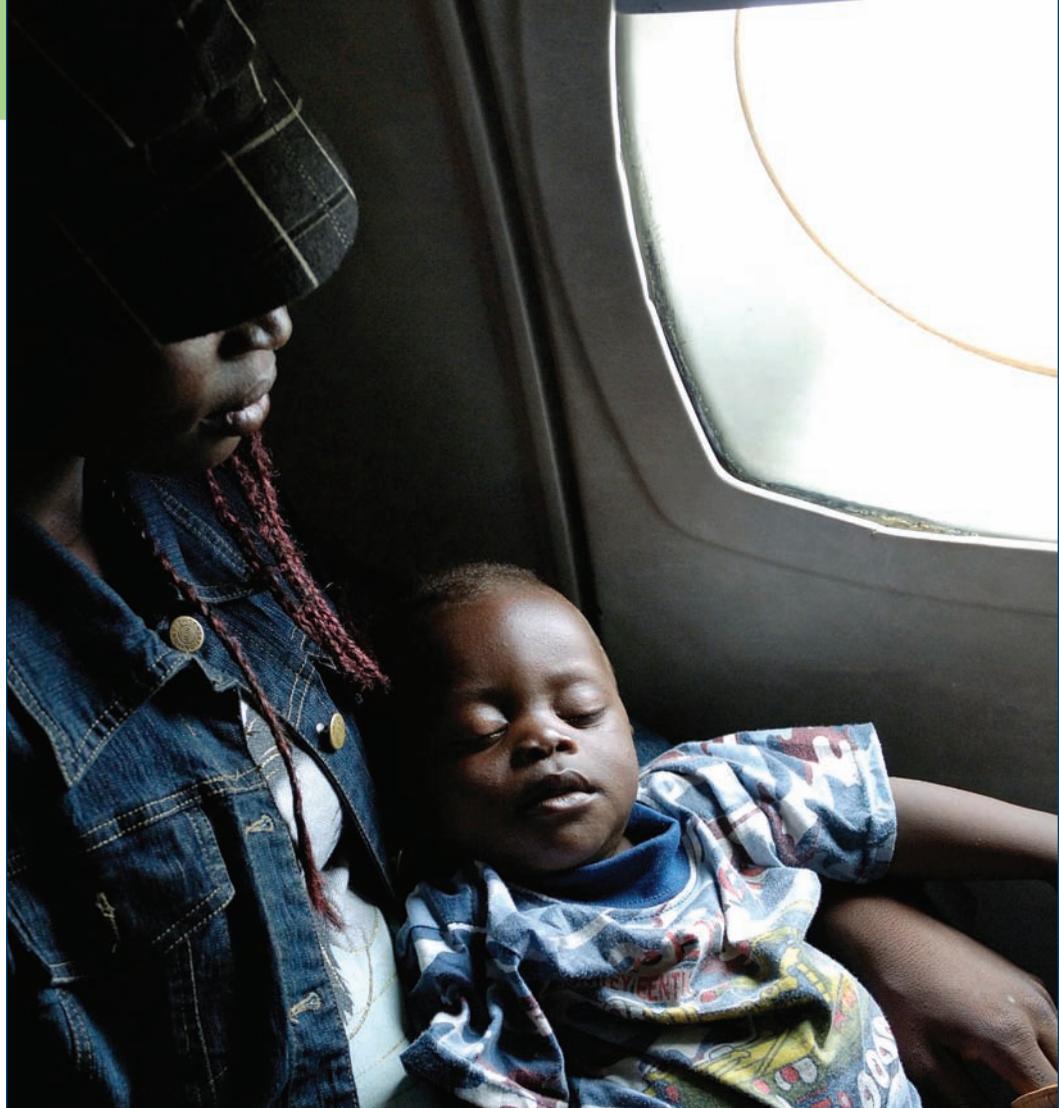
of 2,366 at-risk areas and opened 21,000 kilometres of road. Along with UNICEF, the mission provided mine risk education to 166,992 people living in or intending to return to mine-affected areas. Unfortunately, demining also led to tragedy on 26 January, when an Indian peacekeeper was killed in a roadside ambush while protecting civilian demining contractors.

On the legislative front, progress was made with the passage of the Political Parties Act, the Civil Service Commission Act, National Civil Service Act, and Armed Forces Bill. The long-awaited National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Strategy was approved, with reservations, by the National DDR Council in August.

In an effort to strengthen governance, First Vice-President Kiir launched a major anti-corruption campaign in Southern Sudan. Several senior officials, including the Minister of Finance, were relieved of their posts to answer charges of embezzlement and bribery. The southern justice system was strengthened when the GoSS appointed 253 new public prosecutors to be trained and deployed at the state level.

Security in the mission area was generally calm, although there were pockets of hostility and violence, mainly linked to cattle rustling, private feuds or disgruntled soldiers. In Jonglei State, clashes in August between Murle and Nuer fighters reportedly left over 80 dead. In September, former Popular Defense Forces aligned with the SPLA were besieged by the SAF in Muglad, Southern Kordofan, until the CPC intervened. The disputed '1-1-56 boundary' and the Abyei area saw tensions at various times, rising to a peak in December with a series of clashes between the SPLA and members of the Misseriya tribe during their annual southward migration.

Attempting to curb tribal tensions, UNMIS organized reconciliation meetings between Dinka Ngok and Misseriya leaders on nomad migration routes in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States.



A child of an Internally Displaced Person (IDP) sleeps on its parent's lap as a plane flying IDPs back to Southern Sudan prepares for take-off. Khartoum, Sudan. 10 July 2007. (UN Photo by Fred Noy)

In February, the mission acted as a consultant for the Southern Sudan Peace Commission, when it held, in collaboration with the international non-governmental organization Pact Sudan, the first major region-wide peace conference in Torit, Greater Equatoria State.

UNMIS' radio station, Miraya FM, also played a vital role in easing tribal tensions as well as informing the public about the CPA and census. The radio expanded its network to include most population centres of Southern Sudan. In October, it launched a daily three-hour short wave radio service to reach the rest of the country. An independent audience survey, carried out in seven of 10 southern Sudanese states, found that Miraya was the most well-known and listened-to radio station across the region.

In addition, UNMIS widened its public outreach through a series of work-

shops on the CPA, the mission's role in Sudan, governance, human rights, various aspects of policing, the census, and elections. The public information office held 21 one-day town hall meetings on the CPA and census across Southern Sudan, attended by an average of 100 community leaders. About 2,000 state officials, members of parliament, village chiefs and elders, schoolteachers and religious leaders were trained to pass on vital information to their communities.

Recognizing Sudan's need for continued support from UNMIS, the Security Council on 31 October extended the mission for six months until 30 April 2008, expressing its intention to prolong the mission further following completion of a strategic review of the mission, designed to ensure its mandate and resources are adapted to the changing needs of the peace process. ■

DRC: a difficult year in the Kivus ends with a ray of hope

The new year brought hope for the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the installation in Kinshasa of a new democratically-elected government and parliament. But hope was in short supply for people living in the eastern part of the country, where violent conflict continued, causing immense suffering. The process of creating an integrated, unified national army respectful of human rights and capable of protecting the population was delayed. North and South Kivu were plagued by activity of illegal armed groups, including the Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR), remnants of ex-FAR/Interahamwe, implicated in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The FDLR's continued presence in eastern DRC remained a major source of friction with neighbouring Rwanda.

The humanitarian situation in North Kivu, the province at the epicentre of the complex crisis, continued to deteriorate in 2007. Throughout the year, nearly continuous clashes took place between

government forces (FARDC), rebel forces under the command of dissident former general, Laurent Nkunda, the FDLR, and other Congolese and foreign armed groups. The violence displaced more than 430,000 civilians from their homes, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the province to some 800,000.

Human rights violations were also rampant in both North and South Kivu in 2007. Thousands of civilians were attacked, raped, used as human shields, or forcefully recruited by armed groups. The population suffered from incidents of summary execution, arbitrary arrests and incitement of intercommunal and inter-ethnic hatred.

For MONUC, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the humanitarian community, violence and instability in the region presented a succession of increasingly complex challenges: protecting civilians; meeting

ever-increasing needs for humanitarian assistance; maintaining the interest and support of the international community; attempting to end abuses by all parties; promoting respect for international humanitarian law; and helping bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis.

In December 2006, Laurent Nkunda refused to heed the elected government's call for him and his 5,000-6,000 troops to lay down arms and either demobilize or integrate into the national army. Nkunda claimed that the Congolese Tutsi community was being threatened with a new genocide at the hands of the FDLR and other anti-Tutsi groups in the DRC. Defying FARDC and some 3,500 MONUC peacekeepers in North Kivu, Nkunda's troops moved towards Goma at the end of 2006, an offensive, which was thwarted with the help of MONUC forces, taking robust action under the terms of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

Congolese authorities and Nkunda eventually reached an informal agreement by which Nkunda's troops would be progressively integrated into the army through a confidence-building period. They would remain based in North Kivu where they would be "mixed" with FARDC troops on a unit by unit basis. These new "mixed brigades" were to carry out military operations against the FDLR.

However, this process failed to achieve its objective. Nkunda continued to exercise authority over his former combatants, interrupting the FARDC chain of command and essentially retaining an independent militia. In addition, he continued to recruit loyalist fighters and minors while putting in place a parallel civilian administration, including police, under his control.

Operations launched by Nkunda's troops against the FDLR in areas with high concentrations of ethnic Hutus resulted in massive population displace-



Peacekeepers from the North Kivu Brigade (India) ensure the security of a delegation of MONUC, OCHA and UNHCR visiting IDP camps while in Kirilirwe, Masissi, North Kivu (50km northwest of Goma), 9 December 2007. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)

ments and mistreatment of civilians. The FDLR, supported by armed Mai-Mai groups that had—like Nkunda’s loyalists—resisted army integration, and fought back, attacking Nkunda’s troops, as well as innocent civilians. Ethnic tensions in the province escalated and at the end of August, Nkunda’s men began attacking government forces.

MONUC, the Security Council and various other international players, repeatedly called for a halt to the fighting, urging restraint and a political solution to the crisis. MONUC, which is mandated by the Security Council to support the FARDC to deal with illegal Congolese and foreign armed groups, supported efforts to re-establish the government’s legitimate authority in the region.

Faced with a sharply deteriorating security and humanitarian situation, the

international community stepped up efforts to resolve the crisis. Through the facilitation of the United Nations and other partners, the governments of the DRC and Rwanda signed a Joint Communiqué in Nairobi, Kenya, in November. The document marked a major step forward by committing both governments to specific steps aimed at eliminating the threat posed by illegal armed groups operating on Congolese territory, in particular the FDLR

In December, after an initial preemptive attack by Nkunda loyalists, the FARDC launched a major offensive. After some initial successes, the FARDC offensive stalled in the face of counter-moves by Nkunda. A military stalemate ensued. The failure of the FARDC offensive to force an end to Nkunda’s rebellion and integrate his troops into the legitimate armed forces of the DRC made it clear

that a purely military solution to the crisis in the Kivus was not possible.

2007 nonetheless ended on a hopeful note for the people of eastern DRC. On 21 December, the government announced that a conference on peace, security, and development in the Kivus would be convened in Goma. The conference opened on 27 December, with the participation of over 1,250 representatives of national and provincial institutions, the principal ethnic groups and civil society, as well as the main armed groups, including Nkunda’s CNDP. The conference was to address the root causes of the crisis in the Kivus, formulate recommendations for bringing an end to the fighting, and promote reconciliation and reconstruction in the region. With the support of MONUC and other international partners, the conference began its work in earnest as the year came to a close. ■



FARDC soldiers and UN troops from India (INDBATT, North Kivu Brigade) ensure security in the town of Sake, DRC. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)

PHOTO ESSAY



The Congo River has great importance to the economic and social life of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The MONUC Riverine Unit sails the Congo River on a sensitization campaign trip in March 2007. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)

The MONUC Riverine Unit docks in Bosu-Bata, DRC. The reopening of the Congo River to commercial traffic has revitalized the local communities, ending isolation due to war and violence. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)



A MONUC team heads into a village for information sessions in Bokatulaka, DRC. Their presence helps to generate a climate of confidence and security for the local population. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)

A MONUC public information officer gives the opening speech to the community of Mobeka, DRC. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)



Members of the Taccenis Theatre Group perform a play to highlight MONUC's outreach message in an entertaining and easily understandable manner in Emate, DRC. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)

A MONUC peacekeeper greets a local child in Emate, DRC. The cordial and professional interaction of UN peacekeepers helps to improve the image of the mission and to build trust amongst the Congolese population. (UN Photo by Marie Frechon)



Combatting sexual violence: UN, government and NGOs take action in the DRC

Appalled by the horrific statistics of violence against women, particularly in conflict zones, the United Nations system has over the past three years sought to confront and eradicate sexual and gender-based violence, often perpetrated by warring parties as a tactic of war, but also by civilians.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where a debilitating armed conflict continued throughout the year in the eastern part of the country, the problem is particularly prevalent. Impunity has prevailed for the perpetrators, while local hospitals and other communities have been overwhelmed by both the physical and psychological wounds of the victims.

According to Yakin Ertuk, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, 4,500 cases were reported in the first half of 2007 in South Kivu province alone. These victims were probably just the tip of the iceberg, she said.

“Insecurity and impunity continue to be the main causes of the problem that

continue the war on women and that threaten any chances of normalization of the situation and of peacebuilding,” she said.

The UN’s initiative against gender-based violence, known as the ‘Initiative Conjointe de Lutte Contre les Violences Sexuelles’, found that in the eastern conflict-ridden provinces, – where most of the reported sexual violence occurs – most violations were committed by uniformed men. In more peaceful provinces of the country, such as Bandundu and Bas Congo, a higher proportion of incidents were committed by civilians.

The UN has intensified its actions to address impunity, strengthen prevention and assist victims, in cooperation with national authorities. These are top priorities for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who will launch a comprehensive plan of action to prevent violence against women in early 2008 to continue through 2015. The UN’s Executive Committee on Humanitarian Assistance (ECHA) established an emergency task force in 2007 to coordinate the work of

UN entities on what became known as “SGBV” (sexual and gender-based violence). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, visited the DRC to raise international awareness of the issue, as did Special Rapporteur Ertuk.

In October, the UN Security Council addressed gender-based violence which had reached “appalling levels of atrocity”, according to a presidential statement, which stressed the need to end impunity for abuses as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking peace, justice, truth, and national reconciliation. The Council called on all parties to armed conflict to respect international law applicable to the protection of women and girls. Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon asked the Council to establish a mechanism to monitor violence against women and girls.

In December, a Security Council resolution on the DRC condemned “sexual violence perpetrated by militias and armed groups, as well as elements of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), stressing the urgent need for the Government of the DRC, in cooperation with MONUC (the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC) and other relevant actors, to end such violence and bring the perpetrators to justice....” The Council called on Member States to assist and to continue to provide medical, humanitarian and other assistance to the victims.

In the field, MONUC, UN humanitarian actors, led by UNFPA, along with international and national NGOs, are working to support the DRC government at the national and local levels in strategies to end sexual violence. MONUC blue helmet patrols have deterred rape and saved lives in some areas. The mission is compiling a list of suspected perpetrators in the armed



Panzi Hospital in Nyamarhege receives, on a daily average, 10 new victims of sexual abuse. South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 6 September 2007. (UN photo by Marie Frechon)

forces to raise awareness among Congolese partners and to push for action. MONUC is also working with the ministries of justice and health to ensure that health practitioners document sexual abuse properly. The mission is also training hundreds of magistrates and police inspectors on sex offenses and helping to reform discriminatory structures, rule of law institutions, and legal frameworks.

In late 2007, President Joseph Kabila of the DRC and his government took action by announcing a series of initiatives to address the issue as a priority responsibility for the state, including a law

intended to curb sexual violence. In Bukavu province, eastern DRC, First Lady Olive Kabila launched a 'V-Day campaign' to end sexual violence, in coordination with UNICEF, MONUC and the 12 UN entities of the world-wide UN Action Against Sexual Violence. In December, South Kivu's acting governor launched a 'Bureau de la Commission Provinciale de Lutte Contre les Violences Sexuelles', composed of representatives of the government, NGOs and UN agencies. Government figures showed that 14,000 cases of sexual violence had been registered in that province alone in 2005-6, with only 444 transferred to the courts.

A core group of DRC ministers and members of parliament was formed with the help of the UN to help combat sexual violence through the executive and legislative branches of government. Local authorities in eastern DRC established campaigns and commissions to combat sexual violence.

With tens of thousands of lives damaged or ruined and the country's reform and development at stake, the DRC and the UN are taking concerted action to end the scourge of sexual and gender-based violence, as no peace is possible while a war on women continues. ■

UN works to end northern Uganda's 20-year conflict

As 2007 drew to a close, one of Africa's most notorious conflicts – the two decade-old war waged by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda – appeared closer than ever to resolution, thanks in some measure to the facilitation efforts of UN Special Envoy Joaquim Chissano, the former President of Mozambique.

His main challenge in 2007 consisted of building trust with a rebel movement wary of outsiders and fearful that peace could lead to imprisonment for atrocities, such as the widespread abduction of children as soldiers and other serious abuses allegedly committed by the LRA during a conflict thought to have killed tens of thousands of people since 1986 and which forced some 1.7 million villagers from their homes.

Mr. Chissano's role as facilitator of the talks began in December 2006, when he was named the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the LRA-Affected Areas – a euphemism for the region encompassing not only northern Uganda, but also neighbouring areas in Southern Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo which suffered

the spillover effects of the conflict and had become rearguard retreats of the LRA. At the time of the appointment, government-rebel negotiations mediated by Vice-President Riek Machar of the Government of Southern Sudan were teetering on the edge of collapse. LRA

leaders had angrily walked out of the talks, insisting on both a new mediator and a change in venue from the Southern Sudanese capital of Juba.

Enjoying close ties to heads of state in the region and with experience both as



UN Envoy Joaquim Chissano and mediator Riek Machar of the Government of Southern Sudan in discussion with commanders of the Lord's Resistance Army, November 2007. (UN Photo by Timothy Mckulka)

a former combatant himself and from peace negotiations in his native Mozambique and elsewhere in Africa, the parties believed Mr. Chissano could steer the talks back on track. Following several meetings with the rebel movement, including two direct meetings with reclusive LRA leader Joseph Kony, talks not only resumed in Juba under the continued mediation of Mr. Machar in April 2007, but the momentum was also quickly restored thereafter.

Since then, a cessation of hostilities has held and been extended on several occasions, allowing political efforts to breathe. In May 2007, the parties reached a "protocol" agreement on root causes of the conflict and the need for comprehensive solutions. In June, they signed an agreement on "principles of accountability and reconciliation", a first step at trying to address the legacy of human rights abuses.

In a further confidence-building measure, rebel representatives returned to Uganda as official guests of the government in November 2007, in order to carry out consultations with supporters in the ethnic Acholi areas of the north where the LRA originated. Both sides expressed determination, meanwhile, to reach a definitive cease-fire by January, the deadline established at an agreement struck in Arusha, Tanzania, in September by both Uganda and the DRC for resuming military operations against the LRA in the absence of further progress in the talks.

Mr. Chissano continues to act as a facilitator in the talks, offering advice and support to the mediation process led by Mr. Machar. With assistance from the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and two small support offices recently established in Kampala, Uganda, and Juba, Southern Sudan,

Mr. Chissano has been able to keep a close ear to the ground in Uganda, while also shuttling to meetings with heads of state around the region, periodic visits to New York, and – on one occasion – a visit with ICC prosecutors in The Hague. UNMIS and MONUC, the UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan and the DRC, have also provided crucial assistance to the envoy, as have members of the ambassadorial corps from five African countries (DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania) who have agreed to serve as a support group to the talks.

Although the peace process took important steps forward throughout the year, human rights accountability remains a thorny issue in the talks. It would be no small challenge for the parties to ensure there is a peace with justice in Northern Uganda. ■

Innovation through integration of UN efforts in Burundi

With a view to consolidating the gains of Burundi's hard-won peace following elections in 2005, Security Council resolution 1719 of 25 October 2006 established the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) on 1 January 2007 to support the country towards achieving sustainable peace and stability. The year 2007 thus marked a new beginning for UN contributions to Burundi's peace consolidation efforts, with a switch from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, and with the UN endeavouring to deliver in an integrated manner.

BINUB was established as a highly integrated structure aimed at harnessing the UN system's collective capacities to address the core peace consolidation challenges in a comprehensive manner. BINUB's structure includes resources provided by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as well as other UN entities. The Executive Representative

of the Secretary-General (ERSG), Youssef Mahmoud, serves as the head of BINUB, the UN Resident Coordinator, UN Humanitarian Coordinator, the UN Development Programme's Resident Representative, and the Designated Official for security purposes. As such, BINUB's structure is a key innovation of 2007 and has served to visibly improve performance, coherence and coordination of the UN presence in Burundi, and has set a strong foundation for achieving key peace consolidation tasks into 2008.

In December 2006, the Peacebuilding Commission declared Burundi eligible for an allocation from the Peacebuilding Fund, based on priorities presented by the Government of Burundi. During 2007, a peacebuilding priority plan was developed with the support of BINUB, which allowed the Secretary-General to approve an allocation of US\$35 million to Burundi. Through a United Na-

tions/Government of Burundi Peacebuilding Steering Committee, 18 peacebuilding projects were developed to support the Government's peacebuilding priorities. BINUB is taking the lead in the implementation of some 12 of these projects, which represents a new "project oriented" approach towards the implementation of BINUB's peace consolidation mandate.

BINUB also embarked on a capacity-building programme during 2007 through a series of training sessions to promote press freedom, strengthen the media legal and regulatory framework, and enhance media professionalization. To this end, BINUB organized a workshop in July on a legal and regulatory framework for media, followed by a workshop on communication skills and strategies for senior government officials and government institutional spokespersons. Other training seminars for journalists included media law and

ethics, information gathering and evaluation, and investigative journalism. Information and communications officers of UN agencies in Burundi came together to work as a team and established a common communication strategy and action plan for 2008.

Efforts to combat small arms and light weapons proliferation were also a priority, with the aim to recover close to 100,000 weapons in civilian possession. A national Technical Commission for Civilian Population Disarmament is fully functional, and the United Nations continued to raise awareness through such fora as the communication strategy workshop held in July on the dangers of small arms and light weapons. The 'arms for development' campaign was also launched on 17 March in Bubanza province, which resulted in the destruction of over 400 weapons.

Through a dynamic and flexible approach towards the implementation of its mandate, BINUB reached the end of 2007 with many tasks achieved and many challenges also remaining. With the help of its highly integrated structure, and the ongoing implementation of

key projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, BINUB enters 2008 with a more robust political mandate which will hopefully assist Burundians to over-

come their most pressing peace consolidation challenge: the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement with the Palipehutu-FNL. ■



(Left to right:) Antoinette Batumubwira, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation, Pierre Nkurunziza, President of Burundi, and Youssef Mahmoud, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), cut the symbolic ribbon on the occasion of the official launch of BINUB, in Bujumbura, Burundi, 20 February 2007. (UN Photo by Mario Rizzolio)

New peacebuilding architecture frames support to Burundi, Sierra Leone

The establishment of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture – the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) – was among the most important outcomes of the 2005 World Summit. Two years on, the architecture has begun to demonstrate value added to UN peacebuilding efforts to support fragile societies recovering from the devastation of war, particularly in the first two countries benefiting directly from the PBC's assistance, Burundi and Sierra Leone.

In New York, Bujumbura, and Freetown, the PBC brought together key actors,

such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Community (EC), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and representatives of civil society, to participate in its deliberations either in person or through video teleconferencing. During his address at the conclusion of the PBC's first session on 27 June 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon remarked that the PBC's innovative and inclusive approach to strategic planning and partnership make it "a truly unique body" within the UN family.

In Burundi, the PBC worked with the government and international and local

partners in Bujumbura and identified the country's peacebuilding priorities as good governance, strengthening the rule of law, community recovery, and land ownership. In April, the PBC dispatched a field mission to Burundi, where it interacted directly with all national, regional and international stakeholders throughout the country. In June, the PBC's Burundi configuration adopted a Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, which outlined these priorities and the corresponding commitments. In September, Ambassador Johan Løvald (Norway), Chair of the PBC's country specific meeting on Burundi, paid his fourth visit to the country in less than a

year, to assist in the peaceful resolution of a parliamentary deadlock threatening to stall the country's peace process. Three months later, the PBC adopted the first-ever Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism for the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding.

Similarly, in Sierra Leone, the PBC facilitated reforms to address the country's peacebuilding priorities, namely youth employment and empowerment, justice and security reform, good governance, energy sector development, and capacity building. In March, the PBC also dispatched a field mission to Sierra Leone, where its members gathered first-hand information on the country's key challenges and needs. In the lead-up to the country's historic presidential and parliamentary elections in September, the PBC convened three special meetings with stakeholders in Freetown and monitored the situation closely at the request of the Security Council. On 12 December, the PBC and the newly elected government adopted a Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, described as "another major milestone in the country's journey towards stability," by Ambassador Frank Majoor (Netherlands), Chair of the PBC's country-specific meeting on Sierra Leone.

On 19 December, the PBC's agenda was broadened with the addition of Guinea-Bissau following a request from the Security Council backing the Government of Guinea-Bissau's request for inclusion on the Commission's agenda. In its response to the Security Council's request, the PBC committed itself to establish a programme of work in close contact with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau.

The PBC's efforts continued to be enhanced by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), a catalytic mechanism to address the threat of countries relapsing or lapsing into conflict. With an initial funding target of US\$250 million, the PBF has so far collected deposits worth more than US\$195 million from 42 donors. In support of Sierra Leone's elections, the PBF was used to support the salaries of 30,000 polling staff and equipment for local police to help control disturbances. And in Burundi, the PBF funded community-based dialogue and the training of human rights and gender awareness for military personnel. In Côte d'Ivoire, the PBF has supported the ongoing Burkina Faso-led peace facilitation, and in the Central African Republic and Guinea, the PBF has provided much-needed assistance

to national dialogues, including facilitating the involvement of external peace mediators.

The third component of the peacebuilding architecture, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), worked closely with the UN Country Teams in Burundi and Sierra Leone, and managed the PBF. In New York, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Carolyn McAskie, and her PBSO staff supported the PBC's deliberations in its various configurations, including the Working Group on Lessons Learned. The PBSO also worked to enhance its mandated responsibility to "bring together the relevant actors" in the UN system around peacebuilding strategies and strengthen its role as a knowledge base about peacebuilding lessons learned for the PBC, the UN system, and the wider peacebuilding community.

The significant progress achieved by the peacebuilding architecture in 2007 is a concrete step forward in the UN's endeavor to meet the high expectations of millions of people throughout the world who are striving to keep their societies on the fragile road from conflict to sustainable peace. ■

UN works with traditional leaders to prevent violence in Côte d'Ivoire

Deadly attacks by armed men in 2005 and 2006 sowed death, destruction and displacement in villages around the town of Duékoué in western Côte d'Ivoire. The attacks increased tension in the area, where land disputes and the outbreak of the Ivorian conflict in 2002 had already tested the co-existence between indigenous people, settlers from elsewhere in Côte d'Ivoire and West African immigrants.

After the latest spate of violence, in November 2006, the head of the military observers of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in Duékoué, Sami Teber, approached the chiefs of the var-

ious communities and suggested reconciliation meetings between them. "That man came to us with an open heart," says Duékoué District Chief François Batai, referring to the military observer. "We saw that he was sincere and wanted to help us."

On 1 February 2007, Duékoué's chiefs met under the aegis of Teber, who was impressed by their commitment. He recalled that he unwittingly provoked an outcry at the meeting when, after hours of intense discussions, he suggested a lunch break: "They told me: 'We are not here to eat, we are here to solve a serious problem and we'll continue until

we do so.'" He quickly apologized and the meeting continued, resulting hours later in a reconciliation agreement signed by the chiefs. Within days, people who had fled their villages began drifting back to rebuild their destroyed homes and pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. A road through the affected villages that had been blocked for three months was reopened.

The traditional leaders went on to form the 'Comité des chefs pour la paix' or Committee of Chiefs for Peace, with a view to promoting peaceful co-existence in the area. Since then, the chiefs, often accompanied by UNOCI

officials, both civilian and military, have been travelling to villages in their region to preach forgiveness and reconciliation, and advocate peace, thus playing a major role in defusing tensions between communities.

February's launch of the Committee of Chiefs for Peace in Duékoué was followed throughout the year by initiatives involving the traditional leaders and their UNOCI partners. One of the chiefs' first activities was to contact their peers in other parts of the Moyen Cavally region, which includes Duékoué, and in neighbouring Dix-Huit Montagnes to get them to join the peace-and-reconciliation bandwagon. As a result, the from the areas concluded a peace pact under the auspices of UNOCI at a town hall meeting in the town of Bangolo in May 2007. In July, UNOCI used the example set by the chiefs of western Côte d'Ivoire to encourage leaders of communities in Anyama, a multiethnic and multinational district on Abidjan's northern border, to sign a pledge to abjure communal conflict and contribute to the peace effort. As the year 2007 drew to a close, Anyama's chiefs established coordination committees comprising representatives of the indigenous Akyé community, settlers from other Ivorian regions, and West African immigrants to better structure and coordinate their contribution to the defense and promotion of peaceful co-existence in their region.

The future of the chiefs' efforts to promote peace and reconciliation at the local level is linked indissolubly to the evolution of the overall peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, where a pact concluded on 4 March 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, between the two former belligerents, the Presidential Camp and the Forces Nouvelles (FN) sparked guarded hope for a happy ending to the conflict. The Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA), facilitated by Burkinabe President Blaise Compaoré, provided for the appointment of FN Secretary-General Guillaume Soro as Prime Minister at the head of a govern-

ment comprising the FN, the Presidential Camp and the political opposition.

One of the most significant results of the OPA was the gradual elimination of the zone of confidence, an area controlled by UNOCI and the French military presence in the country, 'Force Licorne', that had separated the former belligerents and prevented any renewed outbreak of hostilities between them. The agreement also resulted in the establishment of an Integrated Command Centre (CCI) headed by top officials of both the governmental Defense and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FDS-CI) and the Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN). The role of the CCI, which is supported by UNOCI's military force and the French 'Force Licorne' operation includes security, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), the disarmament and demobilization of militias (DDM) and the reunification of the two former belligerent forces, FDS-CI and FAFN elements.

Other OPA spinoffs included the launch, in May, of the voluntary disarmament of militias in the west, although the op-

eration proved little more than symbolic. In July, weapons handed in by militias and the FAFN were burned in the FN stronghold of Bouaké at a ceremony dubbed the Flame of Peace, attended by several heads of state from the sub-region, representatives of the main Ivorian political and military forces, the UN and the diplomatic corps. The event, for which UNOCI provided logistical and security support, marked the first visit by President Laurent Gbagbo to the FN zone, and was widely touted by media and politicians alike as symbolizing the beginning of the reunification of the country. With September came another symbol of the implementation of the OPA: the launch of public mobile court hearings at which undocumented persons can receive substitute birth certificates.

Despite these developments, the international community urged the Ivorian parties to take concrete action to speed up implementation of the OPA. The Presidential Camp and FN set new timeframes for the operations envisaged by the agreement in a complementary accord they concluded in Ouagadougou



A traditional chief studies a pamphlet produced by the public information office of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) that explains the role of the UN in the country, Duékoué, Côte d'Ivoire, 15 November 2007. (UN Photo by Ky Chung)

on 28 November 2007. The amended timelines included a late June 2008 deadline for presidential polls.

Over the coming months, thousands of people will have to be issued with identity cards, which some never had, while

others lost or were deprived of theirs. DDR and DDM operations will need to be conducted. Voters will have to be registered, and the elections organized. These are all politically sensitive operations that could be marred by violence. As such, they are likely to constitute a

major challenge for the traditional and community leaders in their quest to safeguard social cohesion locally, and for the Ivorian authorities in their endeavour to keep the peace process on track with the assistance of the international community. ■

New methods accelerate mine clearance

Since the inception of modern mine action in 1989 in Afghanistan, "demining" operations focused on the physical clearance of entire areas suspected to be hazardous. The practice was time-consuming and expensive and involved clearance of many areas that proved not to contain any threat at all.

In 2007, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and its partners adopted an innovative approach to declare suspected hazardous areas free of mines, not by coverage of the whole area with detectors or mine-sniffing dogs, but instead through more thorough and guided surveys. The new approach allows mine-affected countries to assess their landmine problems more

quickly, accurately and cheaply; and to release areas with no evidence of mine contamination. At the same time, mine-clearance operations can focus on land that actually poses a threat to peacekeepers and communities.

The traditional, "risk aversion" approach was reinforced in part by the 1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, also known as the Ottawa Convention, which requires each member country to "make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced...".

The new approach to land release neither embraces risk, nor violates interna-

tional obligations. It instead asks what is really known about areas identified by military records, anecdotal accounts of battles, and indications provided by community members?" Just as a well-run criminal investigation would not identify all suspects, indict and prosecute them without gathering all possible information, mine action implementers are developing better criteria for determining which areas are truly assumed to be hazardous and for releasing those areas where no evidence exists.

In most cases, this new approach could lead to a more than 50 percent reduction in the amount of land that must be cleared by deminers with metal detectors, mechanical methods or with the assistance of mine-detection dogs.

UNMAS-managed programmes in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL), Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), and Sudan (UNMIS), as well UNMAS rapid-response activities, have pioneered the development of detailed and documented means for in-depth surveys of areas that are mined or suspected to be hazardous. They have also led the development of analytical methods that have resulted in more effective and efficient work and greater access for the peacekeeping missions and local inhabitants.

The Mine Action Coordination Centre of South Lebanon (MACC-SL), a joint UN-Government of Lebanon effort, developed criteria for investigating and analyzing data gathered from local authorities, community members and landowners. The result was a considerable reduction in the amount of area re-



In observance of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Bunia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a peacekeeper from Indonesia is demonstrating the operation of a landmine clearance robot to the local population, 4 April 2007. (UN Photo by Martine Perret)

quiring clearance. Clearance operations now focus on credible threats and the landmine problem in southern Lebanon (except for minefields along the Blue Line with Israel), is expected to be eradicated by the end of 2008.

In Eritrea, mine action operators were confronted with the impossible task of determining which areas to focus on in the aftermath of the two-year border conflict which ended in 2000. With limited access and information sources, they erred on the side of caution and identified extensive areas in the UN-monitored Temporary Security Zone in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Efforts in the past year to refine the data and eliminate areas where no credible evidence of contamination exists resulted in the release of over 20 square kilometres of land.

In Sudan, land release centres on the concept of "innocent until proven guilty," and an emphasis on designating areas free of any evidence of mines or explosive remnants of war to assist UNMIS and humanitarian actors in determining where they can safely operate. Instead of maps dominated by red dots indicating suspect areas, the United Nations Mine Action Office (UNMAO) produces threat maps dominated by green, indicating safe access, along with "red" areas deemed to have a credible threat.

In cases where rapid response is required, access to information can be limited and the need to bring relief pressing. In Guinea-Bissau in 2006, an UNMAS-led mission took a land-release approach to make safe a key road where 13 civilians had recently lost their lives in an anti-tank mine ac-

cident. The traditional approach would have involved completely demining 42 kilometres of that road at a cost of some US\$1 million. The land-release approach, however, drew on all available information about the threat on that particular road and targeted operations only to stretches with a credible threat of landmines. The operation relied on local capacity and cost 90 percent less than the traditional approach.

The results of this work have led to a review of International Mine Action Standards on data collection and technical survey, to be completed in 2008. This will serve as a guide for implementers of the land-release approach and for national authorities seeking to reduce new casualties and enable more rapid relief, development, and peacebuilding. ■

Tensions build in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Throughout 2007 the international community became increasingly preoccupied with the rising temperature of rhetoric from both sides and a build-up of troops and heavy military hardware in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) and adjacent areas.

As the 30 November deadline set by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) for the "virtual" demarcation of the border using map coordinates approached, both countries moved large numbers of troops and heavy military equipment in the border area. Eritrea continued to move its forces into the TSZ and the northern adjacent areas, while Ethiopia moved its forces into, or in proximity to, the southern adjacent area. In some places, the opposing armed forces were in plain sight of each other.

Both sides undertook intense defensive preparations and training of their forces, but both also said they would respect the Algiers Peace Agreement. The 30 November deadline passed without incident.

The principal responsibilities of the UN peacekeeping mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE), mandated by the

Security Council, remained unchanged. Its main job is to monitor the TSZ and the adjacent areas; to ensure that both



UNMEE peacekeepers from India providing free veterinary services to farmers' livestock in Zela Ambessa, northern Ethiopia, 8 September 2007. (UN Photo by Ian Steele)

sides uphold the Algiers Peace Agreement; and to assist in the physical placement of concrete pillars demarcating the border whenever the parties can agree to proceed.

UNMEE's capacity also remained seriously constrained by Eritrean restrictions on its activities, including a ban on helicopter flights in its airspace, fuel rations, a refusal to allow

UN nationals from certain countries to work in Eritrea, and major restrictions on UNMEE patrols that are, as a result, mainly restricted to the main supply routes.

The Secretary-General remained in written contact with the leaders of both countries, urging them repeatedly to resolve their differences directly and through the good offices of his senior

representatives. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, travelled to the region and met the leaders of both countries in June and August 2007. Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmond Mulet also met with the Ethiopian Prime Minister and the Eritrean President in their capitals in early November 2007. These high-level diplomatic initiatives will continue in 2008. ■

All-female police unit inspires Liberia's women

In January 2007, the United Nations deployed its first-ever all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) to serve with its peacekeeping mission in Liberia

as the West African country strove to recover from a devastating 14-year civil war in which women paid a particularly heavy price.

leaf, is determined to address these problems and ease the plight of Liberia's women, who bore the brunt of the civil war.



Peacekeepers from the all-woman Indian Formed Police Unit interacting with local residents while patrolling the streets of Liberia's capital, Monrovia, 7 December 2007. (UN Photo by Emmanuel Tobey)

Even before their arrival, this unique deployment of 105 police attracted media attention from around the world.

'In performing our duty we're not that different from men,' says Neelam Sarangal, who has spent 22 years as a police officer in her country and also served in Sri Lanka for a brief spell.

At the same time, she noted that the female police have a natural empathy for local women and girls, who feel more comfortable approaching them with their problems and concerns.

Liberia went through a brutal civil war from 1989 to 2003 that killed more than 200,000 people. Nearly a million others were uprooted, many seeking refuge in neighbouring countries or in camps for the internally displaced. In addition to guns and ammunition, warring factions used rape and other acts of sexual violence as additional weapons.

More than four years after the conflict ended, sexual abuse and gender-based violence still remain cause for serious concern in Liberia. However, Africa's first democratically elected female President, Ellen Johnson Sir-

leaf, is determined to address these problems and ease the plight of Liberia's women, who bore the brunt of the civil war. Women have been appointed to key decision-making positions at the national and local levels, and gender has been considered a cross-cutting issue in the reform and development of national laws and policies. Strenuous efforts are also being made to recruit women into the police and the armed forces. The presence of the female peacekeepers from India is inspiring many Liberian women and girls: the Liberian National Police (LNP) received three times the usual number of female applicants in the month following the deployment of the all-female police contingent.

In their distinctive blue uniforms, the Indian police officers patrol the streets and alleyways of the capital on foot or by car. They are deployed to control riots, combat crime, provide VIP security, and assist with training the LNP recruits at the Police Academy. They also mentor and support the newly trained LNP officers as they carry out their daily duties.

During the civil war, the country's military and police had turned from protectors to violators, and the nascent police force has yet to win the full trust of the population.

Armed with rifles and batons, Sarangal, her fellow officer Shirley Emmanuel, an LNP officer and three other UN Police (UNPOL) patrol the streets of Congo Town, on the outskirts of Monrovia. "I somehow feel more protected with female police officers patrolling the streets," said Angeline Paie, who sells sugar and cooking oil at the market in Congo Town. "I feel more at ease addressing a woman should I have problems...and of course I enjoy seeing women doing what we used to consider 'man-business.'"

Seema Dhundia, Contingent Commander of the Indian FPU, said the professional qualities and abilities of her officers are exemplary. "I think it can create great positive impact having women engaged in providing security.

They become sort of role models for the local population – but only if the women are skilled and professional. It doesn't work just adding numbers."

"If we meet anyone on the road after midnight we frisk them and politely ask them to go home. We explain that it's for their own safety," said Emmanuel. "Should they have weapons or cutlasses, we arrest them and hand them over to the LNP."

A group of men closing up a roadside drinking spot cleared chairs and emptied bottles. "Oh, that's the night patrol, very good," said one. Emmanuel and the rest of the team greeted the men while continuing their patrol through Congo Town. They scoured the beaches, searched empty buildings and took time

to chat with people. "Who's there?" inquired a voice in the dark. "We're the night patrol," Emmanuel responded. A child's voice called out in cheerful giggles: "Hello, hello police, hello", a small but ringing endorsement of the work of the UN police in Liberia.

The first deployment of an all-female police contingent to a peacekeeping mission was widely considered one of peacekeeping's biggest innovations in 2007. The contingent's success in demonstrating professionalism, cultivating warm relations with the local community, and inspiring Liberian women to serve in their national police force demonstrate the potential effect future deployments of all-female contingents could have in other UN peacekeeping contexts in the years ahead. ■

UN Police add capacities to meet demands, develop local forces

The year 2008 will see the largest-ever growth in the deployment of United Nations Police (UNPOL) worldwide.

This increasing demand reflects confidence in UNPOL, which has been innovating in a number of ways, from the deployment in January 2007 of the UN's first all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) to the first operational deployment of officers from DPKO's new Standing Police Capacity (SPC) in November.

Formed Police Units, which are more heavily armed than regular UNPOL teams, bridge the gap between the military component in peacekeeping missions and the capacity of the local police forces. Their increasingly important role was exemplified in 2007 by the re-taking of neighbourhoods in Haiti that were previously controlled by gangs and evacuating civilians caught in a crossfire in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The capacity of FPUs is even greater when the members are women, who can

serve as role models in the societies where they are deployed. And the introduction of the all-female unit in Liberia also served the longstanding DPKO goal of recruiting more women officers as peacekeepers.

"Since the contingent's arrival, the number of Liberian women taking steps to join the national police force has increased," the President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly, Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, said of the Indian unit serving with the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

The SPC enables the United Nations to immediately begin stabilizing troubled areas before it has received all of the police contributions necessary for a full deployment. Specialists who have trained and worked together are stationed at UN Headquarters in New York, to prepare for start-up operations, and to kick-start them on the ground once they receive a green light from the Security Council.

In November, the SPC sent its first five officers to volatile Chad to start training recruits for a specialized Chadian police unit responsible for providing security to the approximately 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Sudanese refugees affected by instability in the country and by the conflict in neighbouring Darfur.

"These SPC officers and others who will arrive, together with the regular UNPOL personnel, will play a very important role by helping prepare the way for the eventual full deployment of up to 300 UNPOL officers as mandated by the Security Council," said SPC Chief Walter Wolf.

Once fully operational, the SPC will have two main roles: to provide an immediate start up capability on the ground for the police components of new UN peacekeeping operations, and to facilitate rapid support and technical assistance on policing issues to existing UN missions.



Police officers at the National Police Academy, trained by United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) personnel. Dili Timor-Leste, 14 December 2007. (UN Photo by Evan Schneider)

These innovations are an outgrowth of the DPKO Police Division's overall strategic efforts, in concert with the rest of DPKO and Member States, to deal with the growing demands for global peacekeeping in general and policing in particular.

They draw inspiration from the "Brahimi Report" of 2000, which recommended

that UN Police focus primarily on the reform and restructuring of local police forces, while undertaking traditional advisory, training and monitoring tasks.

UN Police Adviser Andrew Hughes says this year's restructuring of the UN's approach to rule of law issues is a natural progression that will im-

prove the efficiency of global policing. The Police Division now operates as part of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, giving broader scope to its work.

UNPOL is involved with another DPKO initiative: Integrated Operational Teams designed to ensure integrated support to UN peace operations. Each team will have six specialist officers: two military, two police and two support officers, who can foster a coordinated and coherent approach to operations.

The growing role and importance of policing in UN peacekeeping operations is reflected in the Secretary-General's designation of DPKO's Police Division as the 'lead support entity' in policing and law enforcement.

Member States have pledged to work more closely with the Police Division to improve training for UNPOL officers preparing to serve as peacekeepers in Darfur. This will be the largest single UN Police contingent ever, with more than 6,400 officers serving in the UN-AU peacekeeping force, UNAMID. The total number of UNPOL officers needed in missions worldwide is expected to increase to more than 16,000 by the end of 2008, from just under 10,000 in 2007. ■

Parties renew dialogue over Western Sahara while UN keeps the peace

The political situation in Western Sahara saw some positive developments in 2007. In April, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1754 by taking note of the proposals presented to the Secretary-General by the Government of Morocco and the Frente Polisario, each of which put forth their vision for overcoming the longstanding impasse over the disputed territory. In October, the UN Security Council approved resolution 1783, which urged the two parties to resume talks over the future status of the former Spanish colony; calling on the

parties to "engage in substantive negotiations without preconditions and in good faith with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution".

Under the auspices of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, representatives of the two parties together with representatives of the neighbouring countries, Mauritania and Algeria, convened for two rounds of UN-sponsored talks in suburban New

York in June and August. Despite the continued divergence in positions, the renewed dialogue marked the first direct negotiations between the parties to the conflict in more than seven years. A third round was held in January 2008.

Throughout this period, the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) continued to fulfill its mandate by monitoring the ceasefire as well as supporting a range of assistance programmes to address the plight of displaced and sepa-

rated Sahrawi families. New leadership included peacekeeping veteran Julian Harston who arrived in February as Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the first Chinese force commander in UN peacekeeping, Major-General Jingmin Zhao.

While talks resumed on a mutually acceptable political settlement to the 32-year conflict, MINURSO continued to assist both parties in maintaining the cease-fire across the buffer strip (aka the 'berm'), which stretches along the entire length of the disputed territory and separates the Moroccan-administered portion (west) from the area that is controlled by the Frente Polisario (east). In 2007, UN military observers carried out more than 8,800 ground patrols and 600 helicopter reconnaissance flights. They also made over 5,600 visits to sector headquarters and more than 19,800 visits to subunits in the areas west and east of the berm. Indeed, the scope and frequency of these patrol operations have increased with ever more effectiveness owing to the dedication of over 230 UN military observers serving in MINURSO from 27 contributing Member States.

On the civilian side, the mission welcomed a large number of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to fill various administrative and logistical roles in line with DPKO guidelines to strengthen the presence of UNVs in peacekeeping

missions worldwide. Gender considerations were also given top priority in the recruitment of new staff. With this additional support, MINURSO was able to continue assisting the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and most notably its Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) programme, which so far has focused on organizing family reunification visits and telephone exchanges between separated Saharan families. Based on the consent of the two parties, the CBM programme is designed to facilitate

greater contacts between Saharan communities residing in Western Sahara and those who were displaced to refugee camps in the Tindouf area of south-western Algeria, thus bridging gaps and incrementally working towards a lasting normalization of the situation. Whether in the form of civilian police and technical personnel or ground and air assets, MINURSO remains committed to supporting these critical initiatives as a way of addressing the humanitarian impact of this enduring conflict. ■



Family reunion in a refugee camp as part of the Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) programme led by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and supported by the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), Algeria, 22 June 2007. (UN Photo by Rolla Hinedi)

New approaches to peace process required in Somalia

In 2007, the humanitarian crisis in Somalia, coupled with an escalation in the fighting, led UN officials to label it "the worst in Africa". Civilians as always have borne the brunt of the violence. Hundreds have been killed and thousands injured; and by December more than a million are reported to be internally displaced. More than half of Mogadishu's residents have fled and many are living in makeshift camps. Those who

remained continue to struggle against lawlessness, fear and malnutrition.

The United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) is tasked with helping to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia. The new Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, has stressed that the international community cannot continue with business as usual. He announced

early on that the international community should look for a New Agenda for Somalia to end the 17 years of violence.

One of the messages delivered by the SRSG to galvanize international support for helping Somalia was that while humanitarian assistance was crucial for alleviating the suffering of the people, it will not bring a lasting solution. In some cases in the past, its side effects may have actually made matters



Displaced people carrying sacks of maize from the distribution centre organized by the UN World Food Programme in Jowhar, Somalia, September 2007. (IRIN Photo by Manoocher Deghati)

worse. Vast resources have been poured into the country, but reconciliation remains elusive. Solutions are needed in the form of simultaneous political and security progress.

New ideas and approaches are crucial to moving the political process forward. The SRSG shares the view that one of the root causes of the prolonged Somali conflict is the exclusion of some parties from the peace process and has stressed that peace negotiations must be inclusive and bring in parties at different stages of the process.

Somalia finally has a government recognized by the international community – the Transitional Federal Government

(TFG) – but its situation is precarious. Any future political process has to lead to a genuine reconciliation and the harmonization of issues and differences. The new Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein appears willing to engage in dialogue which is an important first step.

To get Somalia out of conflict, the UN is exploring practical means to stabilize the security situation. African Union (AU) peacekeepers arrived in Somalia in March; however, less than a quarter of the number promised was actually deployed. Throughout the year their role in Somalia, while helpful, remained limited. Moreover, the longer the stalemate persists, the more AU troops are ex-

posed to attack by armed elements opposed to the TFG. Since his arrival in the mission area, Mr. Ould-Abdallah has been carrying out intensive consultations with regional leaders, partners of Somalia and international organizations and NGOs to look at ways of stabilizing the country.

The two-track approach proposed by the Secretary-General to the Security Council is aimed at contributing to create an environment conducive to an inclusive political process in Somalia while, in parallel, preparing for the potential deployment of a robust multinational force or a coalition of willing partners. ■

UN and national police work to improve security in Haiti

The year 2007 saw some important achievements in the stabilization of Haiti. Thanks to the comprehensive and targeted security operations conducted by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Haitian National Police (HNP) in early 2007, the security situation of the country improved signif-

icantly. Progress on the security front, in turn, did not only produce tangible results for the local population but also enabled the mission to enhance its efforts in other areas of its mandate as well as to take on additional tasks which, in the joint assessment of the Haitian government and the United Nations, are necessary to con-

solidate progress towards sustainable stability in Haiti.

Only a year before, progress in the overall situation of Haiti was impeded by a number of factors. While a certain degree of political stability had been achieved through the holding of presidential, parliamentary, and local elec-

tions, the security situation remained highly volatile. Organized crime cartels and gangs intensified their indiscriminate killings and kidnappings most notably in the poorest sections of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The lack of state authority over the city's largest shantytown areas, Cité Soleil and Martissant, in particular undermined Haitian economic life due to their proximity to the port, airport and industrial zones. These, essentially "no-go", areas presented a major challenge to stability and allowed the gangs and their leaders, who lived there, to operate with impunity. All negotiations with the government over giving up their weapons voluntarily were rejected by the gangs' powerful leaders.

In December 2006, following a dramatic increase in kidnappings, the Haitian Government requested MINUSTAH to go into Cité Soleil and Martissant to disarm the gangs and detain their leaders. Operating in an environment of blind alleys,

urban trenches, and cardboard labyrinths, peacekeepers came under intensive fire from the heavily armed gangs while seeking to detain those responsible for the violence, and seize illegal arms and ammunition. On 24 January 2007, in a major move forward, peacekeepers took control of the so-called "Blue House", a battered, four-storey building that provided gang members with a headquarters from which they fired at UN troops. The building was also used as a base for extortion of money from local businesses and vehicles travelling along National Highway One.

The operations reached their highest intensity in early 2007, during which the gangs were dislodged from their enabling environment and some 850 suspected gang members were arrested. The operations had the full support of the Haitian government and led to the dismantling of the toughest gangs, the eventual detention of the majority of their leaders, and the restoration of

State authority to Haiti's biggest shantytowns. The establishment of check points and regular joint patrols by MINUSTAH and the HNP enabled UN agencies and development actors to return to Cité Soleil and Martissant and work in relative safety. In general, the crackdown by MINUSTAH and the HNP on the gangs and criminal networks in Cité Soleil and Martissant has led to a major improvement of the overall security situation as well as a significant decrease in kidnappings and constitutes a major achievement in the stabilization of Haiti.

In late October 2007, MINUSTAH peacekeepers were faced with another challenge: tropical storm Noel swept across the island of Hispaniola with torrential rain and high winds in Haiti causing severe flooding and structural damage in the low-lying areas of Port-au-Prince and the southern and western parts of the country. In total, more than 73 Haitians were killed, 133 were in-



Members of the Brazilian battalion of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) assist local residents to renovate a shattered building in Cité Soleil, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 30 August 2007. (UN Photo by Marco Dormino)



UN peacekeepers provide cover in the Cité Soleil neighbourhood during an operation to restore order in the area after heavy fighting between gangs. Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 9 February 2007. (UN Photo by Logan Abassi)

jured, 21,726 were displaced from their homes and 3,852 dwellings were destroyed. MINUSTAH reacted swiftly: peacekeepers engaged in large-scale evacuations, carrying residents to safety by inflatable boats and sometimes on their backs, and providing food, water and medical assistance to those in need.

Having successfully organized national elections and improved the security situation, MINUSTAH still faces major challenges: strengthening Haiti's state institutions, assisting the government to reform its rule-of-law structures, and assisting the Haitian authorities in the management of the borders. MINUSTAH has, over the past year, continued its efforts to build capacities at all levels of the Haitian Government and pro-

vided technical assistance and expert advice for the development of key institutions, including major ministries, the parliament, the judiciary and relevant local bodies.

In addition, MINUSTAH has assisted in the reform of Haiti's rule-of-law structures, where significant progress was made through the adoption, by parliament, of three laws on the status and training of magistrates as well as oversight of their functions. The adoption of those bills constitutes a crucial step in the process of judicial reform as they provide a framework to fight corruption and impunity within the judiciary, as well as to establish arrangements for the certification of judges and prosecutors. In his address at the opening ses-

sion of the National Assembly in January 2008, Haiti's President René Prével explicitly thanked MINUSTAH for its achievements in the security domain as well as its contribution to the judicial reform process.

The mission has also continued to assist in the crucial process of reform of the Haitian National Police, both in the comprehensive vetting process and in the training and monitoring of police officers. In 2007, 627 new police officers were trained and joined the HNP for duty.

By adopting resolution 1780 (2007) in October, the Security Council reaffirmed MINUSTAH's mandate to provide technical assistance in the ongoing reform of the HNP and the judicial and correction systems. By that resolution, the Security Council also placed a key emphasis on assisting the Government of Haiti in border management, including the provision of technical expertise to help the government define a comprehensive border management strategy and establishing patrols along maritime and land border areas in support of the HNP. The newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Hédi Annabi, launched the process in discussions with President Prével and subsequently with the Dominican authorities. The deployment of MINUSTAH Military, police and civilian advisers to the borders of Haiti has commenced. ■

Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions created for peacekeeping

One of the key innovations within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) this year has been the creation of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), which is to provide an integrated and forward-looking approach to UN assistance in the area of rule of law and security.

Established by the General Assembly as part of the Secretary-General's wider reform of peacekeeping, the new pillar brings together a wide range of DPKO entities: the police division; judicial, legal and correctional units; mine action; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), as well as security

sector reform (SSR) functions. It builds on key reform recommendations from the Brahimi Report of 2000, emphasizing the significance of the rule of law for sustainable peace and security.

"The goal of the new pillar is to develop a holistic approach to the rule of law

and security institutions, by incorporating all aspects within a comprehensive, primarily DPKO-related network that includes the police, the judiciary and corrections," said Dmitry Titov, the Assistant Secretary-General who heads OROLSI. "All the functions of OROLSI are at the core of UN efforts to support the sustainable reform of security in post-conflict countries. The Office will aim to provide a coherent, integrated framework, while collaborating and enhancing our partnerships with non-UN actors, including regional organizations and bilateral donors. We will also serve

as a global UN focal point for the police and corrections issues".

With the dramatic growth in peacekeeping operations, DPKO is receiving an increasing volume of requests for support in policy development, operations management and capacity-building. Meeting these demands requires reinforcing existing partnerships, and creating new opportunities for cooperation to strengthen delivery capabilities. Given such growth, it is also crucial to generate additional funding for police, judiciary, corrections and other vital activities in the field.

While the police, judicial, and corrections sections are now unified under one structure at headquarters, this is not yet the case in all peacekeeping missions. The full political support of heads of missions is critical. Equally crucial is collaboration between DDR and SSR units. OROLSI is already asking the police, judiciary and corrections, DDR, SSR and mine action components in the field to strengthen early dialogue with their headquarters counterparts. ■

UN renews and strengthens its commitment to Iraq

In 2007, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) continued the implementation of its mandate to assist the government and people of Iraq. UNAMI has provided important assistance in the areas of political facilitation, electoral and constitutional support, human rights, humanitarian, reconstruction and development in Iraq. In support of Iraq's transition to a fully sovereign and independent country, the United Nations also provided technical assistance to enable the Government of Iraq to hold two national elections and draft the constitution of Iraq.

In March 2007, the Secretary-General visited Baghdad to see first-hand the challenges faced by the people and the Government of Iraq. He met with Iraqi leaders from across the political spectrum and called on them to work together in a spirit of national dialogue and reconciliation. He also met with UNAMI staff and witnessed the difficult living and working conditions that they operate under each day. The Secretary-General's visit and the work of UNAMI underscore the United Nations' commitment to Iraq.

With the unanimous adoption of resolution 1770 in July 2007, the Security

Council updated and broadened the UN mandate in Iraq through the passage of Security Council Resolution 1770 (2007), replacing 1546 (2004). In consultation with the Government of Iraq, UNAMI began reviewing every aspect of its work to identify priority areas where it could intensify its efforts. In November 2007, Staffan de Mistura was appointed the Secretary-General's new Special Representative for Iraq, replacing Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

One primary area of attention for the UN in 2007 was the facilitation of political dialogue and national reconciliation in Iraq. This included support for the Constitutional Review Process, which aims to resolve fundamental disagreements among Iraqis on how they envision the future of their country. UNAMI also began preparations for assisting in the resolution of disputed internal boundaries, including Kirkuk.

Electoral assistance was also at the forefront of UNAMI's activities in 2007. The mission was called upon to assist the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) to ensure that it is sufficiently prepared for future electoral events. As part of its capacity building programme in 2007, UNAMI held workshops and study visits for both the Commission and

its administration to improve their operational capacity, particularly with respect to voter registration.

Regional engagement in 2007 was also a priority for the United Nations. At the Expanded Ministerial Meeting of Iraq and its neighbours, which included 22 Member States and regional organizations, it was agreed that three working groups would be established to facilitate regional dialogue on issues of common concern, namely border security, energy and refugees and internally displaced persons. In 2007, UNAMI actively supported these working groups.

On the humanitarian front, much of the UN focus has been on assisting the estimated 2 million refugees who remain outside of Iraq and the 2 million Iraqis who are internally displaced. UNAMI and UN agencies have been working on ways to improve the delivery of relief aid inside the country. In late 2007, when it became evident that Iraqi refugees were beginning to return to their country, the UN responded by providing a number of families with urgently needed food and material assistance.

UNAMI has also maintained a focus on supporting Iraq's long-term reconstruction and development needs through the

International Compact with Iraq (ICI). The ICI is a partnership between the Government of Iraq and the international community which was launched in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 4 May 2007. It is a five-year national plan that includes mutual commitments from both Iraq and the international community aimed at helping put Iraq on the path towards peace, good governance and economic reconstruction. As co-chair, the UN promoted this important

initiative and helped develop the structures and mechanisms necessary for its implementation.

UNAMI continued to promote human rights in Iraq and monitor the well being of the country's most vulnerable people. UNAMI also played an important role in providing technical advice to the Government of Iraq on how to strengthen Iraqi institutions to ensure the respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Today, the UN has increased its staff presence in Iraq, which gives UNAMI – security permitting – the opportunity to provide further assistance at this crucial moment. Despite the many challenges facing the United Nations in Iraq, it is committed to helping the people and Government of Iraq achieve stability, national reconciliation and long-term prosperity. ■

Peacekeepers take innovative approach to community outreach in southern Lebanon

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is breaking new ground in community outreach by employing an innovative combination of standard public information tools and techniques adapted to the specific requirements of the mission environment.

When in August 2006, Security Council resolution 1701 re-established UNIFIL in a new incarnation, the force was enhanced and bolstered by a robust mandate to play an important role in support of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity

and security, as well as stability in the wider region. The maintenance of the cessation of hostilities testifies to UNIFIL's crucial presence in southern Lebanon, alongside the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF).

The mission recognized the potential for local apprehensions regarding the role of the 'new' UNIFIL and, in the spring of 2007, initiated a series of six public perception surveys among local communities. The surveys are aimed at gaining detailed information about the way the mission is perceived, gauging the

level of understanding about its mandate and examining sources of the public's information on UNIFIL.

The survey questions were tailored to the specific and varied information needs of the UNIFIL. The resulting findings have provided a wealth of valuable information that is helping the mission strengthen relations with the people of southern Lebanon and improve understanding of the mission's mandate.

The survey has been conducted every two months since April 2007 by a Lebanese consultancy. The first round of findings were taken as a baseline of public opinion upon which changes and developments were measured over the course of the year. The trends were then analyzed both in the context of the broader socio-political and media environment of Lebanon and UNIFIL's own activities. In this way, the survey has been used for both early warning and conflict prevention, as well as for monitoring and evaluation in relation to key mission activities.

The surveys have been particularly useful in the development and assessment of public information and outreach activities. A key finding was that the local population preferred to be informed on UNIFIL by direct communication and



UNIFIL peacekeepers at a mine risk education class for children, 10 March 2007, (UNIFIL Photo by Jorge Aramburu)

that one of their most important sources of information was television.

The mission responded with a series of television spots on UNIFIL's mandate and activities broadcast during July-September 2007. Drawing from the "messengers of peace" concept, the spots were conceived as a "Journey through UNIFIL" featuring prominent Lebanese stage actor Rafic Ali Ahmad, who explores UNIFIL and communicates his discoveries and UNIFIL messages in the local dialect. Surveys during October 2007 revealed that between 42 and 48 per cent of respondents had seen the TV spots and suggested a strong correlation between viewing of the spots and the respondents' knowledge about UNIFIL, with those who had seen the spots being twice as likely to report having good knowledge of UNIFIL than those who had not.

To further direct communication, in December 2007 UNIFIL launched a bi-monthly magazine "Al Janoub" (The South) in Arabic and English versions. Designed as a forum for exchange of information and opinions between the public and UNIFIL, the magazine seeks to inform through a participative engagement of the local communities.

These and a range of other public information tools and products are being used to support the mission's community outreach initiatives. These include such activities as UNIFIL photo-exhibitions across southern Lebanon, "Day with UNIFIL" project involving youth visits to mission headquarters, meetings



UNIFIL Public Information Office making a public outreach video with Rafic Ali Ahmad, a prominent Lebanese actor, who leads the audience on a journey of discovery about UNIFIL and its work through a series of ten television spots, 11 July 2007. (UNIFIL Photo by Ramin Francis Assadi)

with community leaders and training to enhance negotiation skills and cultural sensitivity for UNIFIL staff dealing with local communities.

As a mission with civilian and military components, albeit with predominantly military resources, UNIFIL has employed certain standard military tools and techniques, adapted to the UN ethos, to develop an innovative mechanism for coordinating the message content in its civilian and military activities. These include the public information office, civil affairs, Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) units and the Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) – components whose activities involve public interface in their normal course.

This approach to community outreach extends even to operational units right down to the patrols, the underlying principle being that at the point of public interface, every action of a peacekeeper carries a message of its own, and this should factor into the considerations determining any operation.

The holistic approach to community outreach, informed by public perception surveys and employing novel coordination mechanisms to ensure synergy between the mission's diverse activities and its communication strategy, promises consistency and integrity in UNIFIL's approach to implementing its mandate. ■

UN guides Kosovo on path towards final status

Efforts to move forward the process leading to a determination of Kosovo's future status continued throughout the year. While negotiators were unable to bridge the differences between Pristina and Belgrade over the sovereignty issue, the year ended with both sides reaf-

firming their commitment to refrain from any actions that could jeopardize security in Kosovo.

Throughout the year, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continued to transfer the ex-

ercise of certain competencies to the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG). Elections in November and December were conducted in a free, fair and peaceful manner, highlighting the commitment of the people of Kosovo to a peaceful future.

In March, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Envoy for the future status process for Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, finalized the plan he developed during 14 months of negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina and submitted it to the Secretary-General, who in turn conveyed it to the Security Council. Under the Ahtisaari proposal, Kosovo would govern itself under international supervision and have the right to enter into international agreements, including membership in international bodies. Special protections for minorities as well as the decentralization of power to the municipalities would help to ensure that the rights and interests of minorities are protected. Under the proposal, international civilian and military presences would oversee, and where necessary enforce, the new arrangements and help to ensure peace and stability. A European Union (EU) special representative would act as an International Civilian Representative, with ultimate supervisory authority to ensure the implementation of civilian aspects of the settlement, including the power to annul laws and remove

officials whose actions are determined to be inconsistent with it.

In April, on the suggestion of the Russian Federation, members of the Security Council visited Belgrade and Kosovo to see the situation on the ground for themselves. From May to July, a number of draft resolutions addressing Kosovo's future status were introduced and discussed in the Security Council, but Council members were unable to agree on how to resolve Kosovo's status.

On 1 August, the Secretary-General accepted a proposal from the Contact Group on Kosovo—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and the Russian Federation—to hold an additional 120 days of negotiations, led by a Troika comprised of the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Troika completed its work but was unable to facilitate an agreement on status and submitted a final report to the Secretary-General on 7 December. The Secretary-General stressed that a timely status solution remained a priority;

however, the Security Council, which discussed Kosovo on 19 December, remained divided and took no action.

A number of significant events took place in Kosovo during 2007. Following the November-December elections, the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) won a mandate to form a new government with 34 percent of the vote for the National Assembly, was negotiating to form a broad-based government that would include minority parties. During those elections, the electorate also chose Municipal Assembly members and, for the first time, directly elected a mayor in each municipality. While Kosovo Serb participation in the elections was disappointingly low due to a partially heeded boycott call, a higher percentage of Kosovo Serbs voted in 2007 than in 2004, and more Serb political entities registered than ever before.

In another encouraging sign, more displaced Kosovo Serbs returned to their homes than in 2006. Indeed, Kosovo continued to make progress on all eight Kosovo "Standards," which include functioning democratic institutions, the rule of law and freedom of movement, as well as sustainable returns and the rights of communities and their members. In his regular reports on the situation in Kosovo, the Secretary-General said on 28 September that UNMIK has largely achieved what is achievable under Security Council resolution 1244, adding that a further prolongation of the status process could put at risk the United Nations's achievements in Kosovo.

Following the tragic deaths of two protesters who were shot by UNMIK police during a violent demonstration on 10 February, a newly appointed UNMIK Police Commissioner instituted several measures to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents. A number of peaceful protests were conducted by Kosovo civil society groups throughout the remainder of the year, including a demonstration on 10 December in support of independence which was eventually declared on 17 February 2008. ■



Kosovo parliamentarians members applaud after sitting for the first time since November 2007 elections. Pristina, Kosovo. January 4, 2008. (UN Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu)

Myanmar: UN diplomacy in the global spotlight

Dramatic developments in Myanmar during 2007 thrust the Southeast Asian nation into the global spotlight as never before — and, along with it, UN diplomacy aimed at resolving the recent crisis.

The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) works in close support of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, Ibrahim Gambari, a Nigerian diplomat and former Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, whose missions to Myanmar and the wider region have been at the forefront of international efforts to promote national reconciliation, democracy and respect for human rights in Myanmar following the government's hardline response to a wave of demonstrations in September 2007.

Expectations remained tempered both by past experience and the knowledge that diplomatic efforts take time. But by year's end UN diplomacy was showing some initial results in the form of steps towards the establishment of dialogue that would hopefully lead towards national reconciliation.

"The Government of Myanmar, while stressing its sovereignty and independence, can be responsive to the concerns of the international community," Mr. Gambari told the Security Council following an early November visit in which he met with senior government officials and other relevant parties, including detained dissident Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who in a rare public statement issued by Mr. Gambari on her behalf, proclaimed her readiness to enter into dialogue with the authorities — while welcoming UN assistance in that regard.

In responding quickly to events as they unfolded, the UN was able to build upon its established contacts with the actors in Myanmar. Under a mandate of the General Assembly in effect since 1993, UN envoys have been trying, with varying degrees of responsiveness, to bring the "good offices" of the Secretary-General to bear in encouraging Myanmar

to move more rapidly and credibly towards inclusive national reconciliation, the restoration of democracy and full respect for human rights.

Following nearly three years in which UN envoys were unable to visit the country, Mr. Gambari travelled there twice in 2006, re-establishing high-level political access to Myanmar. That access in turn has proven valuable in responding to the current crisis, providing the international community with a direct, high-level channel through which it can express its concerns and offer its assistance in addressing the situation.

Dispatched urgently to Myanmar by the Secretary-General amid the events of September 2007, Mr. Gambari met face-to-face with Myanmar's top authority, Senior General Than Shwe. He was able to convey international concerns about reported killings and arrests of demonstrators, to urge an easing of the government response, and to offer UN assistance to help address grievances peacefully.

Once immediate tensions had eased, Mr. Gambari returned to the country in November. His visit centred more this time on promoting a process of dialogue between the government and opposition as

a vehicle both for national reconciliation and for addressing humanitarian and socio-economic issues.

In order to bolster support for the Secretary-General's "good offices", Mr. Gambari has also travelled extensively throughout Asia, consulting with Myanmar's neighbours and members of the regional organization, ASEAN, urging them to encourage Myanmar to respond to international concerns by cooperating with the UN. His diplomatic efforts persist independently of the debates that continue among and between Member States over the merits and effectiveness of sanctions versus positive incentives as a way to encourage progress in the country.

In conversations with the authorities in Myanmar, Mr. Gambari has emphasized that a return to the status quo that existed before the recent crisis is neither desirable nor sustainable for the country. At the same time, he has cautioned against expectations that his diplomatic efforts alone, on behalf of the Secretary-General, should produce quick and easy resolution to the challenges facing Myanmar.

"Good offices is not an event," he told the Security Council in November, "but a process that will require time, patience and persistence." ■



Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar. 30 September 2007. (UN Photo by UNIC Yangon)

Timor-Leste consolidates democracy during 2007

The past year for Timor-Leste was characterized by advances in peace, security and development as the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) worked together with national authorities to address the causes and consequences of the crisis in April and May of 2006.

UNMIT was established by the Security Council in August 2006 with a broad mandate to assist Timor-Leste in facilitating dialogue and reconciliation; the restoration and maintenance of public security; the conduct of the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007; and further training, institutional development and strengthening of the national police.

The presidential and parliamentary elections marked a major milestone on

Timor-Leste's road to peace, and consolidation of democracy and economic reconstruction. The Timorese people's commitment to democratic processes was demonstrated by the signing of the national Political Party Accord by all political parties and by the generally peaceful conduct of the elections in 2007. The three rounds of elections in Timor-Leste concluded in June, characterized by high voter participation of some 80 percent (47% women), a generally calm security environment, and results accepted by all political actors, demonstrated that there has been considerable progress towards dialogue and reconciliation since the 2006 crisis.

UNMIT provided crucial technical, logistical support as well as policy advice to the electoral process. It also endeavored through its good offices to

ensure that the election exercise was participatory, constructive and non-violent. The regular joint meetings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Timor-Leste, Atul Khare, with political parties provided a useful opportunity for dialogue with UNMIT and among the parties themselves.

Following the elections, former Prime Minister José Ramos-Horta was sworn in as the new President and a new 65-seat Parliament was inaugurated. On 8 August, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, former President of Timor-Leste and head of a four-party alliance, was sworn-in as Prime Minister. The country went through a generally peaceful transition, although the announcement of the new Government in early August triggered public disturbances, resulting in signifi-



Pranee Inseawong, a UN Police (UNPOL) Community Officer, visits internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in the Jardim Camp, in Timor-Leste, 26 November 2007. (UN Photo by Martine Perret)

cant property damage and some injuries, but no loss of life.

After this outbreak of violence, security incidents throughout the country declined with the increased UNMIT police presence alongside the Timorese national police (PNTL) and the international security forces. The incidence of serious crimes, such as murder, abduction and rape, also decreased to nine per month during the earlier part of the year to about five in the last four months of the year.

UNMIT police continue to be responsible for interim law enforcement, while substantially increasing efforts in support of reform, restructuring and rebuilding of the national police through an ongoing process of mentoring, training and institutional development. As of 31 December, there were 1,484 police officers, including 78 women, serving with UNMIT.

Among the mission's activities in promoting social development was its work with the Government on socio-economic strategies to stimulate employment for young people.

UNMIT has also assisted the country's leadership in addressing the major chal-

lenges facing the country, including the need for national reconciliation, through its "good offices" but also through such formal mechanisms as the Committee on High Level Coordination. SRSG Atul Khare, continued to meet with the Prime Minister, the President and the leader of the largest party in Parliament on a weekly basis, and held monthly meetings with political parties and regular meetings with civil society.

While considerable progress was made in Timor-Leste in 2007, many challenges lie ahead. The remaining pressing problems include dealing with the country's estimated 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs); the issue of prison escapee and deserting former Military Police Commander Alfredo Reinado; and resolving the grievances of the nearly 600 "petitioners" who were dismissed from the Timorese armed forces (F-FDTL) in 2006, sparking the crisis of April-May that year. These priorities are also reflected in the new Government's Transitional Budget for July-December 2007 and the 2008 State Budget, approved by the Parliament on 9 October and 28 December 2007 respectively.

Following the successful conduct of the presidential and parliamentary elec-

tions, UNMIT, in partnership with the Timorese, has particularly focused its efforts on four priority areas of its mandate: review and reform of the security sector, strengthening of the rule of law, economic and social development, and promoting a culture of democratic governance.

UNMIT was deployed in 2006, following a spate of violence that threatened to undo the progress made by the young country and the UN peace operations which had been deployed there since mid-1999.

The 2006 crisis "revealed the institutional fragility in coping with a crisis and that structures for conflict resolution within these institutions were not well developed. I believe that it will take considerable time for this to emerge and see a role for the United Nations in Timor-Leste at least until mid-2010," Mr. Khare said.

The year 2007 was marked by a number of high-level visits to Timor-Leste, including the visits of the Security Council mission in November and the UN Secretary-General in December, which demonstrated the international community's sustained commitment to Timor-Leste. ■

Peace process challenged in Nepal

Nepal's peace process faced a year of challenges in 2007, after the dramatic breakthrough and rapid progress following the People's Movement of 2006. While significant achievements were made in consolidating peace, there were also serious setbacks, such as the two postponements of the Constituent Assembly election, amidst an increasingly complex political landscape and volatile security situation. The peace process was back on track as the Seven-Party Alliance (SPA) reached a major political agreement that set the timeframe for holding the election by mid-April 2008.

The United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) was established in January 2007 on the request of the Nepali parties. With political leadership and management of the peace process fully in Nepali hands, the UN was asked to assist in three key areas: monitoring the management of arms and armies, technical support to Nepal's Election Commission, and assistance in the monitoring of the ceasefire arrangements. In addition, the parties requested continued human rights monitoring by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Keeping the two armies separated, confined to barracks and cantonments, and keeping weapons in safe storage, were important steps in creating the conditions to allow the former insurgents to join the Interim Legislature-Parliament and the Interim Government. UNMIN's arms monitoring role was critical to this process. The first phase of registration of Maoist army personnel and registration and storage of their weapons was completed by mid-February and a second verification phase was completed in December. Weapons remain under 24-hour monitoring and surveillance by UNMIN.



Personnel from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) and the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) Civil Affairs cross a river during a trip to Bhajura - a remote district 500 km west of Kathmandu - to meet with local government and civil society representatives, 26 September 2007. (UN Photo by Robel Mockonen)

Overseeing the implementation of commitments related to arms and armies was the responsibility of the Joint Monitoring Coordination Committee (JMCC), which was chaired by UNMIN with Vice Chairs from the Nepal Army and the Maoist army. The JMCC met 60 times throughout 2007 to ensure constant communication and resolution of differences before they could threaten the peace process. Eighteen months after the late-April 2006 ceasefire, there had been no incident which threatened a return to hostilities between the armies.

The election of a Constituent Assembly - which would be tasked with preparing a constitution for an inclusive, democratic Nepal - is a cornerstone of the peace process. UNMIN's electoral advisers were deployed to assist Nepal's independent Election Commission in planning and preparing for the election, scheduled first for June and later November. Advisers at the Commission's headquarters assisted in establishing the framework and strategic planning for the election. UNMIN's regional electoral advisers helped the Election Commission establish regional resource centres which supported District Elec-

toral Officers. And by August, UNMIN had deployed 81 District Electoral Advisers to work in 68 out of 75 districts, prior to the postponement of the Constituent Assembly election.

The presence of UNMIN and OHCHR in the regions also sought to assist in the creation of a free and fair atmosphere for the election. UNMIN's civil affairs officers monitored public security matters in the districts, and worked to support local initiatives aimed at promoting dialogue and peacebuilding. OHCHR continued to monitor human rights, with special emphasis on the Terai districts most affected by a public security vacuum as well as on a rise in intimidation by the Maoist youth wing, the Young Communist League, and other groups.

The exclusion of large sectors of Nepal's population from public life, including women from most communities, remains a challenge for the peace process. UNMIN's mandate includes paying special attention to the needs of women and traditionally marginalized groups, and throughout the year the mission advocated strongly for the need

for dialogue with these groups as well as for an increase in the representation of women in all fields of public life. The government entered into important compromise agreements with members of some of Nepal's most marginalized groups. The Madhesis of the southern plains make up around 30 percent of Nepal's population, and over 50 indigenous nationalities make up another 35 percent. Ongoing dialogue is essential to ensure their participation in the election for the establishment of a truly representative Constituent Assembly where they will be properly represented and which is necessary for the restructuring of the state that they seek.

Amidst growing mistrust between the parties to the peace process, the Constituent Assembly election was again postponed in October, placing the peace process at a crossroads. With a deepening political impasse, UNMIN urged the parties to maintain their unity and to make a frank assessment of the weaknesses of the peace process so that they could be addressed.

In mid-December, intense political negotiations brought about a new consensus to overcome the political impasse, address some of the underlying weaknesses of the process and set a new deadline for the election, by mid-April 2008. The 23-point agreement, signed on 23 December, provided for parliament to amend the interim constitution so that Nepal shall become a federal democratic republic, to be implemented by the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly. The Government tabled a bill on 30 December for amendments for election-related acts in preparation for the April election.

The promise to hold an election for the Constituent Assembly was the centerpiece of the peace agreement of November 2006, and the election remains a cornerstone of the democratic transition underway in Nepal. Nepalis working for lasting peace can count on the renewed support of the international community in their endeavour. ■

Afghanistan in 2007: promise of peace, reality of war

United Nations peace operations are rarely about doing jobs that are easy. In 2007, Afghanistan proved this point all too well. Only three years ago, much of the planning for Afghanistan had been premised on expectations of relative stability. But over the past year the international and national partnership has found itself dealing with protracted insecurity, poverty, weak governance, bumper opium production, plus the uncertainties of a volatile surrounding region. Any one of these challenges would test a country.

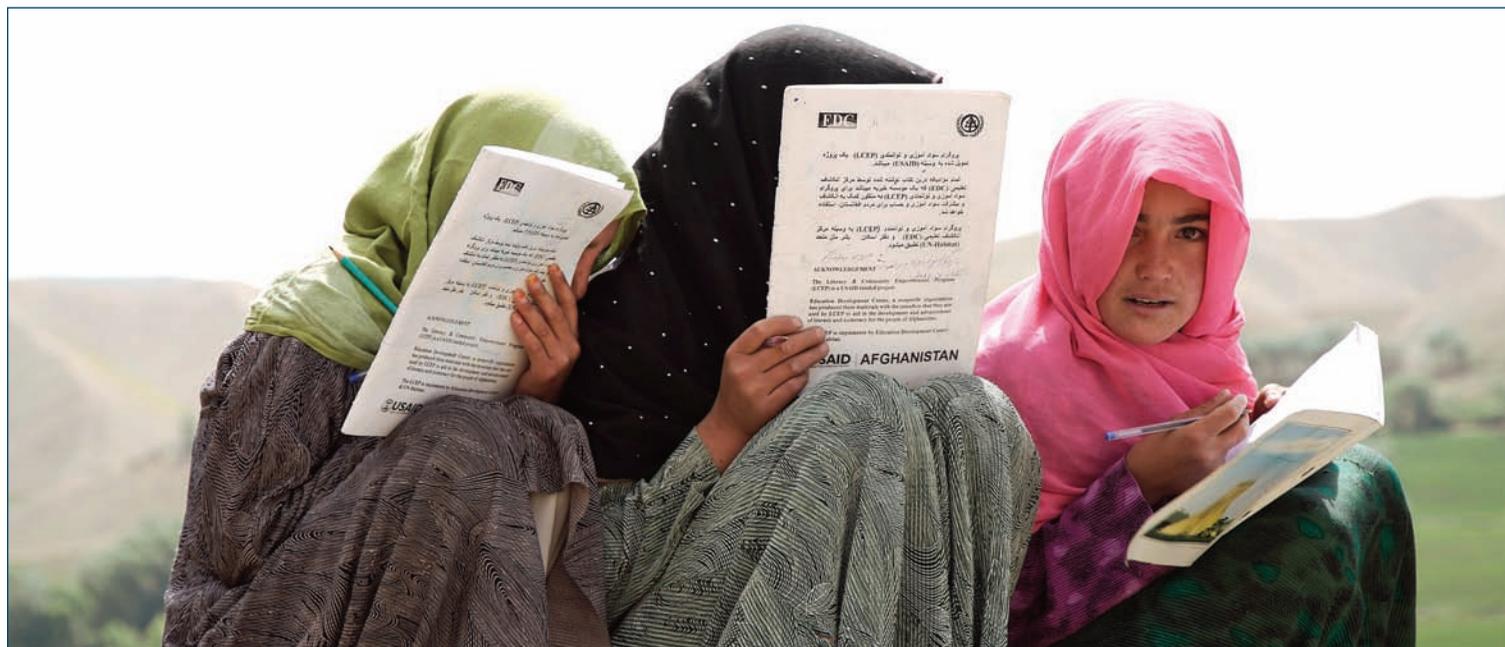
For all the problems, the vast rebuilding effort that arose from talks at Bonn in late 2001 is continuing to press forward. Underpinning strong economic growth (expected at around 13 percent for the Afghan year ending in March 2008) have been robust performances in construction and services. And the benefits of several years of double digit growth are filtering down. A nascent telecommunications industry, for example, is evident in the form of rapid growth of the mobile phone market, expanding Internet use, and in cities at least the opening of numerous shops selling computers and IT gear. This

brings with it accompanying benefits of connectivity, improved skills, and improved literacy. Afghanistan still suffers from debilitating poverty, with a Human Development Index ranking of 174 out of 178 countries. It also presents human rights concerns, not least in regard to women's rights and continuing impunity. But across large parts of the country, signs of a shift to norms associated with a post-war economy became increasingly visible in 2007.

For 2008, the challenge will be to secure and deepen such achievements. Two of the major areas of progress over the past six years have been health care and education. In 2001, less than 10 percent of people had access to basic healthcare, today that figure is around 80 percent. Schooling is now being provided for some six million children, and more girls are attending school than at any time in Afghanistan's history. Such progress has drawn attack from opponents of the state. Schools have been burned down and intimidation of teachers and state employees has risen in some areas. This, and a broader environment of insecurity, is in turn prompting new thinking on modalities for

humanitarian access. A success in this regard during 2007 arose out of a nine-week Peace Day campaign by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Afghan and international partners. In addition to achieving wide public support for peace, the campaign drew pledges from insurgents of safe passage for health workers. As a result, close to 1.5 million children received polio vaccines, including in insecure areas of the south and east. More such initiatives will be needed during the coming year.

As 2007 was drawing to an end, consensus seemed to be emerging on the need to devise a strategy aimed at speeding progress by focusing attentions of multiple national and international partners on the priority problems to do with insecurity. 2008 will see what form this strategy might take. But together with the launch of a National Development Strategy, expected during the spring, and continued focus on the goals of the country's 'master plan' – the Afghanistan Compact – the hope will be to see the promise of peace gain ground over the reality of war. ■

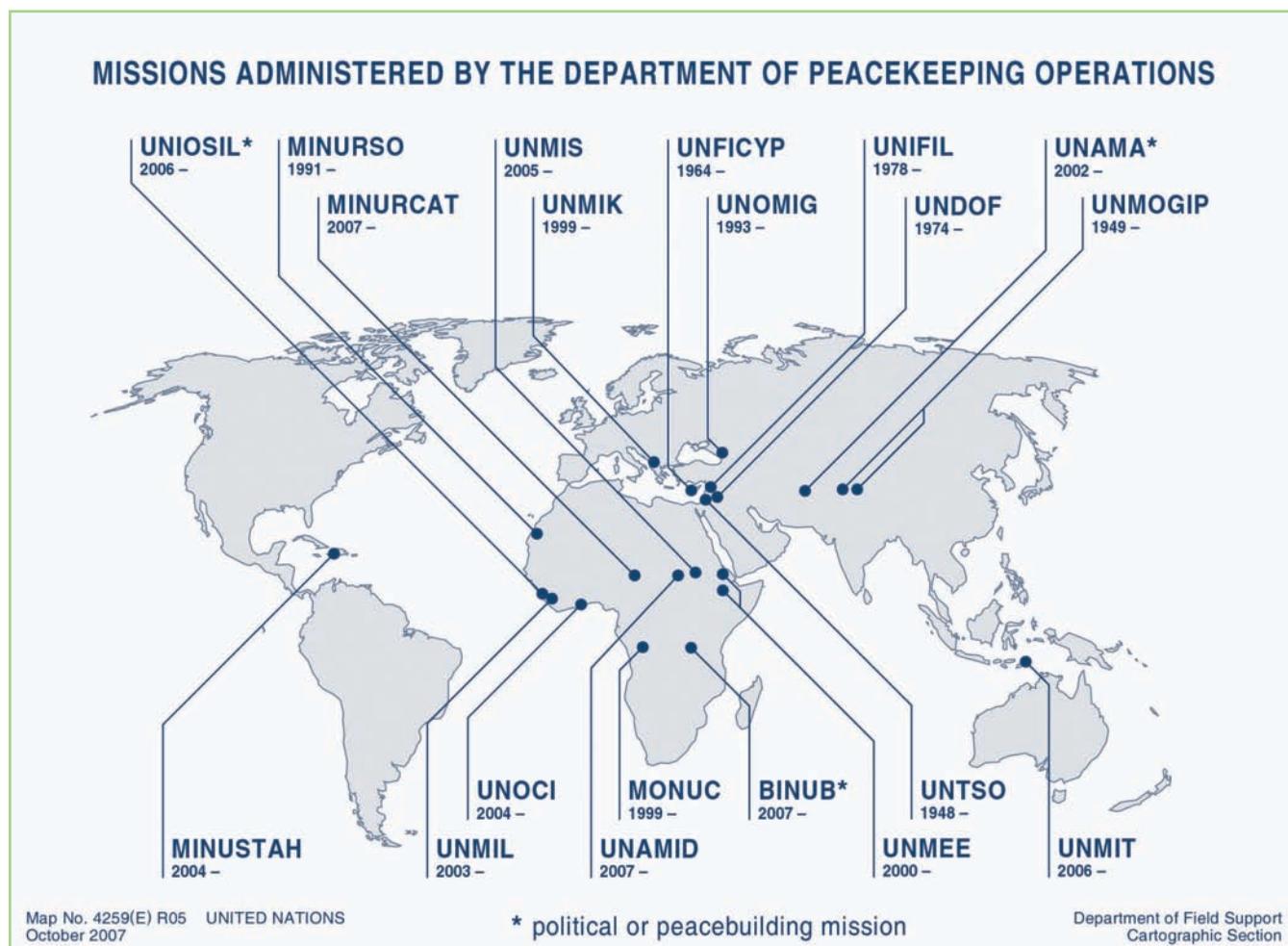


Three young girls in the Bam Sarai village in Bamyan province prepare for exams as part of an effort by which UNICEF and the Government of Afghanistan aim to increase girls' primary school attendance by 20 percent by the end of 2008. Bamyan, Afghanistan, 14 November 2007. (UN Photo by Shehzad Noorani)

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

As of 31 December 2007

Peacekeeping operations since 1948	63
Current peacekeeping operations	17
Current peace operations directed and supported by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)	20



PERSONNEL

Uniformed personnel (70,285 troops, 11,041 police and 2,528 military observers)	83,854*
Countries contributing uniformed personnel	119
International civilian personnel	4,862*
Local civilian personnel	11,404*
UN Volunteers	1,998*
Total number of personnel serving in 17 peacekeeping operations	102,118
Total number of personnel serving in 20 DPKO-led peace operations	104,146**
Total number of fatalities in peace operations since 1948	2,420***

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Approved resources for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.....	About US\$6.8 billion
Estimated total cost of operations from 1948 to 30 June 2008.....	About US\$54 billion
Outstanding contributions to peacekeeping (30 November 2007)	About US\$3.15 billion

* Numbers include 17 peacekeeping operations only. Statistics for three special political and/or peacebuilding missions—UNAMA, UNIOSIL and BINUB—directed and supported by DPKO can be found at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ppmb.pdf>

** This figure includes the total number of uniformed and civilian personnel serving in 17 peacekeeping operations and three DPKO-led special political and/or peacebuilding missions—UNAMA, UNIOSIL and BINUB.

*** Includes fatalities for all UN peace operations.

CURRENT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

UNTSO Since May 1948
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
 Strength: military observer 153; international civilian 106; local civilian 120; total personnel 379
 Fatalities: 49
 Appropriation 2006-07: \$62.27 million

UNMOGIP Since January 1949
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
 Strength: military observer 44; international civilian 25; local civilian 49; total personnel 118
 Fatalities: 11
 Appropriation 2006-07: \$15.80 million

UNFICYP Since March 1964
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
 Strength: troop 857; police 66; international civilian 37; local civilian 106; total personnel 1,066
 Fatalities: 177
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$48.06 million

UNDOF Since June 1974
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
 Strength: troop 1,047; international civilian 40; local civilian 105; total personnel 1,192
 Fatalities: 42
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$39.66 million

UNIFIL Since March 1978
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
 Strength: troop 13,264 international civilian 308; local civilian 602; total personnel 14,174
 Fatalities: 268
 Approved budget 07/07–03/08: \$713.59 million

MINURSO Since April 1991
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
 Strength: military observer 183; troop 27; police 6; international civilian 96; local civilian 148; UN volunteer 23; total personnel 483
 Fatalities: 15
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$47.64 million

UNOMIG Since August 1993
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
 Strength: military observer 132; police 18; international civilian 99; local civilian 182; UN volunteer 1, total personnel 432
 Fatalities: 11
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$35.01 million

UNMIK Since June 1999
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
 Strength: military observer 39; police 1,996; international civilian 468; local civilian 1,953; UN volunteer 137; total personnel 4,593
 Fatalities: 49
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$210.68 million

MONUC Since November 1999
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
 Strength: military observer 733; troop 16,614; police 1,036; international civilian 924; local civilian 2,088; UN volunteer 592; total personnel 21,987
 Fatalities: 117
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$1,115.65 million

UNMEE Since July 2000
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
 Strength: military observer 218; troop 1,465; international civilian 147; local civilian 203; UN volunteer 66; total personnel 2,099
 Fatalities: 20
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$113.48 million

UNMIL Since September 2003
United Nations Mission in Liberia
 Strength: military observer 199; troop 13,310; police 1,203; international civilian 507; local civilian 944; UN volunteer 245; total personnel 16,408
 Fatalities: 102
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$688.38 million

UNOCI Since April 2004
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
 Strength: military observer 195; troop 7,838; police 1,127; international civilian 407; local civilian 573; UN volunteer 292; total personnel 10,432
 Fatalities: 36
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$470.86 million

MINUSTAH Since June 2004
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
 Strength: troop 7,047; police 1,826; international civilian 498; local civilian 1,140; UN volunteer 203; total personnel 10,714
 Fatalities: 33
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$535.37 million

UNMIS Since March 2005
United Nations Mission in the Sudan
 Strength: military observer 596; troop 8,804; police 637; international civilian 864; local civilian 2,400; UN volunteer 251; total personnel 13,552
 Fatalities: 31
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08: \$846.28 million

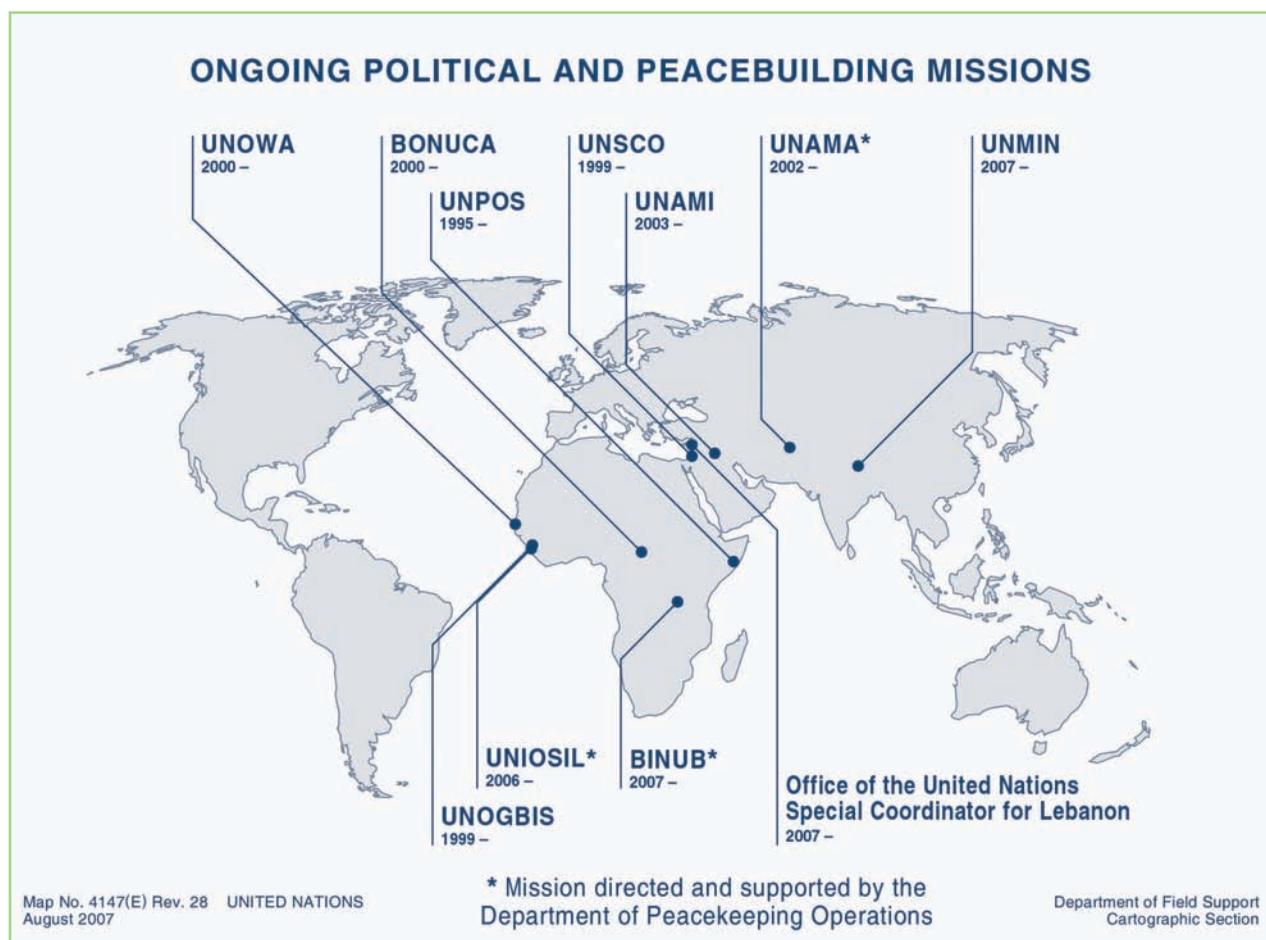
UNMIT Since August 2006
United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
 Strength: military observer 33; police 1,480; international civilian 336; local civilian 791; UN volunteer 122; total personnel 2,762
 Fatalities: 2
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08 \$153.16 million

UNAMID Since July 2007
African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
 Strength: troop 12; police 1,617; UN volunteer 66; total personnel 1,695
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08 \$1,275.65 million

MINURCAT Since September 2007
United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
 Current strength: military observer 3; police 29; total personnel 32
 Approved budget 07/07–06/08 \$182.44 million

NOTE: UNTSO and UNMOGIP are funded from the United Nations regular biennial budget. Costs to the United Nations of the other current operations are financed from their own separate accounts on the basis of legally binding assessments on all Member States. For these missions, budget figures are for one year (07/07—06/08) unless otherwise specified. For information on United Nations political missions, visit the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ppbm.pdf>.

As of 31 December 2007



NUMBER OF MISSIONS 11

PERSONNEL

Uniformed personnel	469
International civilian personnel	1,024
Local civilian personnel	2,140
UN Volunteers	265
Total number of personnel serving in political and peacebuilding missions	3,898

For information on United Nations peacekeeping operations, visit the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/index.asp>

CURRENT POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING MISSIONS

UNPOS Since 15 April 1995
United Nations Political Office for Somalia
Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNPOS: Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania)
Strength: international civilian 18; local civilian 11

UNOGBIS Since 3 March 1999
United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau
Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOGBIS: Shola Omoregie (Nigeria)
Strength: international civilian 13; military adviser 2; police adviser 1; local civilian 10; UN volunteer 1

UNSCO Since 1 October 1999
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East
Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority: Robert H. Serry (Netherlands)
Strength: international civilian 30; local civilian 26

BONUCA Since 15 February 2000
United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic
Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of BONUCA: Francois Lonseny Fall (Guinea)
Strength: international civilian 25; military advisers 5; police 6; local civilian 54; UN volunteer 3

UNSCOL Since 16 February 2007
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for Lebanon (*Formally known as Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon*)
Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for Lebanon: Geir O. Pedersen (Norway)
Strength: international civilian 14; local civilian 16

UNOWA Since 29 November 2001
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Lamine Cissé (Senegal)
Strength: international civilian 5; local civilian 9

UNAMA* Since 28 March 2002
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Acting): Bo Asplund (Sweden)
Strength: international civilian 217; local civilian 1,027; military observer 15; police 3; UN volunteer 32

UNAMI Since 14 August 2003
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq: Staffan de Mistura (Sweden)
Authorized strength: 1,014 (463 international, 551 local)
Current strength (staff based in Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait): international civilian 289; local civilian 348; troop 223; military observer 7

UNIOSIL* Since 1 January 2006
United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone
Executive Representative for UNIOSIL: Victor da Silva Angelo (Portugal)
Strength: international civilian 75; local civilian 199; military observers 14; police 21; UN volunteer 23

BINUB* Since 1 January 2007
United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi
Executive Representative of the Secretary-General: Youssef Mahmoud (Tunisia)
Strength: international civilian 116; local civilian 217; military observer 8; police 12; UN volunteer 49

UNMIN Since 23 January 2007
United Nations Mission in Nepal
Special Representative in Nepal and Head of Mission: Ian Martin (United Kingdom)
Strength: international civilian 222; local civilian 226; military observer 152; UN volunteer 157

Recently established mission:

UNRCCA Since 10 December 2007
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

Mission completed in 2007:

UNTOP 1 June 2000 – 31 July 2007
United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding

* Political or peacebuilding mission directed and supported by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. All other political and peacebuilding missions are directed by the Department of Political Affairs. For information on political and peacebuilding missions, visit the United Nations website at http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/prev_dip/fst_prev_dip.htm

PEACEKEEPING CONTRIBUTORS (Military observers, police, and troops as of 31 December 2007)

No.	Country	Police	Milob	Troops	Total
1.	Albania		3		3
2.	Algeria		13		13
3.	Argentina	38	7	852	897
4.	Australia	73	23	9	105
5.	Austria	22	15	384	421
6.	Bangladesh	947	105	8,804	9,856
7.	Belgium		15	323	338
8.	Benin	133	30	1,176	1,339
9.	Bolivia		37	415	452
10.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	19	6		25
11.	Botswana	7	5		12
12.	Brazil	13	48	1,217	1,278
13.	Bulgaria	49	7		56
14.	Burkina Faso	66	15		81
15.	Burundi	16			16
16.	Cambodia		10	136	146
17.	Cameroon	203	5		208
18.	Canada	92	42	15	149
19.	Central African Republic	9			9
20.	Chad	8	3		11
21.	Chile	9	7	499	515
22.	China	177	71	1,576	1,824
23.	Columbia	2			2
24.	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	21			21
25.	Côte d'Ivoire	76			76
26.	Croatia	20	28	18	66
27.	Cyprus			2	2
28.	Czech Republic	31	14		45
29.	Denmark	26	45	4	75
30.	Djibouti	20	2		22
31.	Dominican Republic		4		4
32.	Ecuador		25	68	93
33.	Egypt	146	77	819	1,042
34.	El Salvador	36	17		53
35.	Estonia		2		2
36.	Ethiopia		21	1,818	1,889
37.	Fiji	38	8	223	269
38.	Finland	21	29	207	257
39.	France	142	27	1,775	1,944
40.	FYR of Macedonia	1		1	2
41.	Gabon		8		8
42.	Gambia	180	14	1	195
43.	Germany	158	51	910	1,119
44.	Ghana	571	68	2,740	3,379
45.	Greece	7	13	230	250
46.	Grenada	3			3
47.	Guatemala		26	227	253
48.	Guinea	79	12		91
49.	Honduras		12		12
50.	Hungary	15	15	88	118
51.	India	493	89	8,775	9,357
52.	Indonesia	6	38	1,031	1,075
53.	Iran		3		3
54.	Ireland	21	25	167	213
55.	Italy	33	18	2,380	2,431
56.	Jamaica	14			14
57.	Japan	2	6	30	38
58.	Jordan	906	78	2,590	3,574
59.	Kazakhstan		1		1
60.	Kenya	46	65	951	1,062

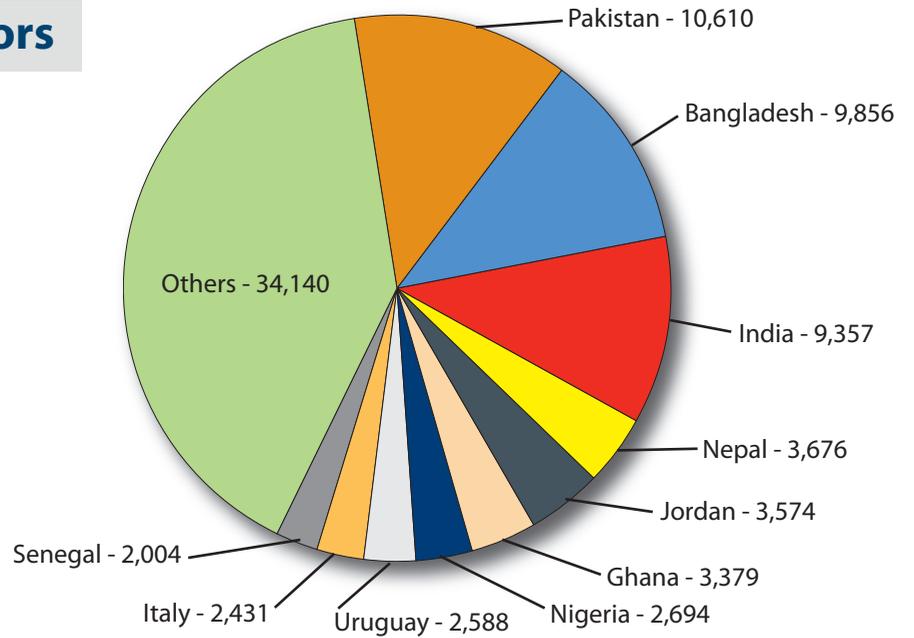
No.	Country	Police	Milob	Troops	Total
61.	Kyrgyzstan	16	14		30
62.	Libya	2			2
63.	Lithuania	5	3		8
64.	Luxembourg			2	2
65.	Madagascar	26			26
66.	Malawi	26	32	113	171
67.	Malaysia	219	64	389	672
68.	Mali	102	35	1	138
69.	Mauritania	15			15
70.	Mauritius	4			4
71.	Moldova		10		10
72.	Mongolia		10	249	259
73.	Montenegro		2		2
74.	Morocco		4	1,534	1,538
75.	Mozambique		3		3
76.	Namibia	20	16	7	43
77.	Nepal	577	48	3,051	3,676
78.	Netherlands	21	27	154	202
79.	New Zealand	26	13	1	40
80.	Niger	206	28	385	619
81.	Nigeria	630	90	1,974	2,694
82.	Norway	31	37	11	79
83.	Pakistan	811	127	9,672	10,610
84.	Palau	1			1
85.	Paraguay		41	34	75
86.	Peru		33	209	242
87.	Philippines	270	22	329	621
88.	Poland	127	14	833	974
89.	Portugal	196	6	146	348
90.	Qatar			203	203
91.	Republic of Korea	6	30	365	401
92.	Romania	214	58		272
93.	Russia	71	100	122	293
94.	Rwanda	128	13	261	402
95.	Samoa	33			33
96.	Senegal	563	40	1,401	2,004
97.	Serbia	6	9	6	21
98.	Sierra Leone	2	3		5
99.	Singapore	21	4		25
100.	Slovakia		2	291	293
101.	Slovenia	15	2		17
102.	South Africa	130	27	1,139	1,296
103.	Spain	70	7	1,121	1,198
104.	Sri Lanka	130	13	960	1,103
105.	Sweden	84	32	3	119
106.	Switzerland	13	23		36
107.	Tanzania	1	24	85	110
108.	Thailand	33	19	2	54
109.	Togo	13	9	316	338
110.	Tunisia		43	469	512
111.	Turkey	207	5	750	962
112.	Uganda	117	14	2	133
113.	Ukraine	227	23	301	551
114.	United Kingdom	63	18	281	362
115.	United States of America	291	17	8	316
116.	Uruguay	17	70	2,501	2,588
117.	Yemen	23	48	4	75
118.	Zambia	164	64	361	589
119.	Zimbabwe	109	20	1	130

	POLICE	UNMO	TROOP
Totals	11,077	2,724	70,508

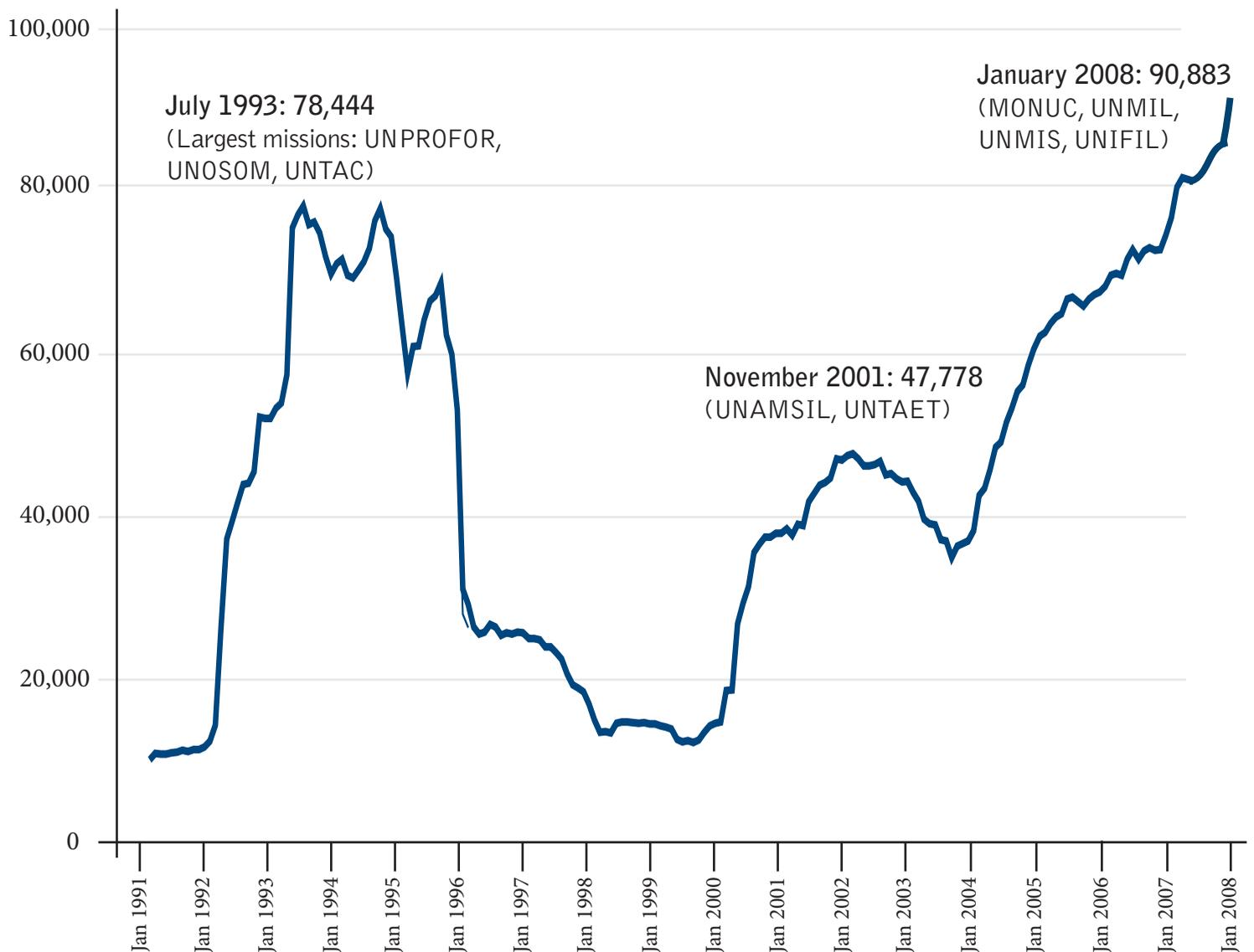
Grand total in PKO **84,309**

Top 10 troop contributors

As of 31 December 2007



Surge in uniformed UN peacekeeping personnel from 1991 to 2008





For more information on United Nations peace operations,
visit the United Nations website at
<http://www.un.org/peace/>

