

UNITED NATIONS

SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

1945 ✦ 2025

AN OVERVIEW

DPPA

Preventing Conflict. **Sustaining Peace**

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About the Overview

This Overview is the first full overview of special political missions deployed since the creation of the United Nations. It aims to raise awareness about their work and inform analysis and research into their value, their successes, their shortcomings, and their potential. It illustrates vividly the role, through eight decades, of the United Nations in consistently innovating and responding to different political circumstances and crises with new and diverse missions, deployments and mechanisms.

For ease of reference, the missions in this document have been divided into two categories: those with a country-specific or regional mandate, and those with a global mandate. Each mission summary begins with a list of details, as applicable: a) the mandate start, or adoption date of a mission's mandate; b) the mandate end, or the expiration date of the mandate; c) the mandating body; d) the mandate decision; and e) the name and nationality of the first head of mission, such as special representative, special envoy, representative, personal envoy, special coordinator or other senior official.

The Overview provides easily accessible information on how and on what basis each mission was deployed. A detailed analysis of the work of each mission is beyond the scope of this document. For mission-specific information, analysis and recommendations, the regular reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council or the General Assembly are an excellent source. Information in the Overview is up to date through 31 December 2025.

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FOREWORD



Rosemary A. DiCarlo

Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

Special political missions are at the heart of United Nations efforts to bring countries together in the pursuit of peace. For nearly eight decades, these missions have endeavored to help settle some of the thorniest conflicts around the world. They embody the original promise of the United Nations: to prevent conflict and maintain international peace and security.

The history of these missions is still not widely known, however. This Overview aims to change that. It offers the first comprehensive overview of the special political missions established since the founding of the United Nations, beginning with the appointment of Folke Bernadotte as the United Nations Mediator in Palestine in 1948.

Special political missions have helped negotiate peace agreements, supported newly independent states as they built institutions and drafted constitutions, contributed to ending apartheid in South Africa, assisted in the removal of chemical weapons from Syria, and backed accountability for crimes committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq. They have adapted to shifting geopolitics and evolving realities on the ground. In many ways, the history of special political missions is a mirror of the United Nations' own journey.

Looking back at the achievements and challenges of special political missions offers valuable lessons. These operations emerged at the dawn of the Cold War, a moment that, in some respects, is echoed in the tensions of the present. They helped Member States transcend divides, reduce tensions, build trust and pursue peace even when global politics were sharply polarized. They showed, in grand and modest ways, the power of diplomacy. Such lessons matter as Member States consider the recommendations of the review on the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations.

The experiences captured in this Overview are meant not only to inform researchers and practitioners, but also to inspire today's policymakers. Taken together, special political missions reveal the many ways the United Nations has worked to advance the Charter's most fundamental goal: to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 80 years, the United Nations has worked relentlessly to maintain international peace and security. Special political missions have been critical instruments of the Organization in this endeavour.

Special political missions are civilian missions that work with governments, conflict parties, regional organizations and civil society to prevent conflict, support peace processes and assist in building a sustainable peace. Their mandates, structures and approaches vary. They may take the form of envoys of the Secretary-General and their political teams working to broker a peace agreement; specialized missions focused on tasks such as ceasefire verification, investigations, border demarcation or disarmament; regional offices that serve as forward platforms for preventive diplomacy; or country-based missions helping Member States navigate complex political transitions. Most of the missions captured in this Overview have employed discreet diplomacy in support of national and regional efforts.

Box 1: Special political missions at a glance

- Special political missions are civilian missions. Their mandates are related to good offices, peacemaking, fact-finding, preventive diplomacy, the implementation of peace agreements, sanctions monitoring, and peacebuilding.
- They are deployed on the basis of legislative mandates from the Security Council or the General Assembly. These may include resolutions adopted by these bodies, as well as exchanges of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, or Presidential Statements adopted by the Security Council.
- Most special political missions are deployed under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter on the Pacific Settlement of Disputes.
- The good offices function of the Secretary-General is a central aspect of the work of special political missions. There have been occasions when discreet good offices initiatives by the Secretary-General, undertaken on the basis of his authority under the Charter, have subsequently received a legislative mandate by a governing body and thus became a special political mission.
- Special political missions can have country-specific, regional or at times global mandates.
- They may operate alongside UN peacekeeping operations or non-UN operations, including peacekeeping or peace enforcement operations deployed by regional organizations.
- While the term "special political mission" only emerged in the 1990s, these functions have been part of the work of the United Nations since its early days.

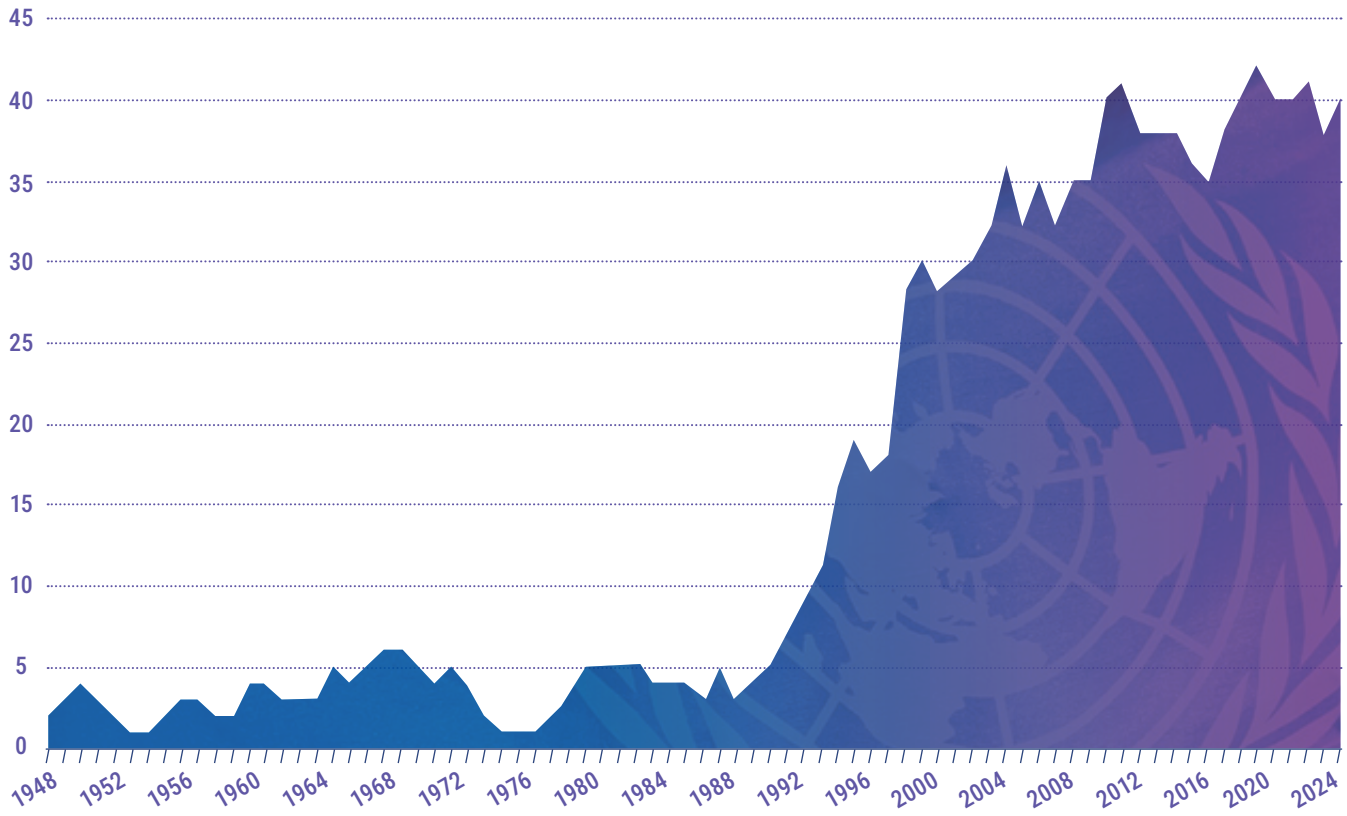


UN Special Envoy for Great Lakes Region Visits Goma, Eastern DRC

Mary Robinson (left), the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, visits Heal Africa, a health facility treating women who are victims of sexual violence, a brutally widespread practice in the conflict in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and children affected by the conflict. (30 April 2013)

Since the creation of the first special political mission in 1948 – the United Nations Mediator in Palestine – these missions have served as instruments of diplomacy for peace (see Figure 1). While most special political missions are deployed under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter, on the Pacific Settlement of Disputes, some fall under different provisions. The General Assembly established the 1955 United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner in Togoland under Chapter XII (International Trusteeship System), for example, whereas the Security Council mandated a special representative for East Timor (now Timor Leste) under Chapter XI (Non-Self-Governing Territories) in 1975 (see Box 1). The Security Council has also authorized certain special political missions, such as investigative panels and sanctions monitors, under Chapter VII, in response to threats to peace.

Figure 1: Number of active special political missions by year (1948-2025)



While the mandates, functions and footprints of special political missions have varied significantly, the vast majority have served to operationalize the political role of the United Nations and the good offices of the Secretary-General.

Providing "good offices" at the request of parties to a dispute or conflict is among the Secretary-General's most vital roles, drawing on the position's independence, impartiality and integrity. Undertaken publicly or in private, this diplomatic work is aimed at preventing disputes from arising, escalating or spreading. In contexts where special political missions are deployed, the good offices of the Secretary-General are carried out by his Special Representatives and Envoys.

This role goes back to the early days of the Organization. On 14 May 1948, the General Assembly adopted resolution 186 (S-2) to establish the United Nations Mediator for the Truce in Palestine, the Organization's first special political mission and first formal deployment of a mediator. The Mediator worked to find common ground between parties, including in the most difficult negotiations, and engaged politically to help improve the lives of people on the ground. Since then, successive Secretaries-General have deployed their good offices – either directly or through high-level representatives, under their own authority or at the request of the General Assembly or the Security Council – to facilitate dialogue and negotiation on political solutions.

This work takes place at the country level as much as at the regional level. United Nations regional offices in West Africa and the Sahel, Central Africa and Central Asia, as well as regional envoys in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, serve as on-the-ground platforms for good offices and preventive diplomacy, working with regional and subregional organizations, Member States and other partners to identify threats early and defuse tensions before they escalate.

Special political missions and shifting geopolitical realities

As the world transitions to a new geopolitical era, the history of special political missions provides insights into how the United Nations has adapted to previous shifts of the global order. Many special political missions have operated on the front lines of these transformations, working to address heightened risks to peace and security while also seizing opportunities encountered in these moments.

Decolonization

When the United Nations was established, approximately 750 million people – about one-third of the global population at the time – lived under colonial rule. The admission of former colonies into the Organization accelerated the movement towards decolonization. Over the ensuing decades, more than 80 territories achieved independence, with many joining the United Nations as sovereign states.

Guided by Chapter XI of its Charter, the United Nations served as a central forum for mediating competing interests, establishing a normative framework for decolonization, and coordinating international support for newly independent countries. Special political missions played a major role in these efforts, authorized primarily by the General Assembly, with some involvement by the Security Council in specific contexts.

For example, some missions organized and oversaw plebiscites that served as preludes to independence, as in Cameroon in 1961 and Equatorial Guinea in 1968, while others supervised elections to determine the will of the people regarding self-determination, as in Togoland in 1957–1958. Other missions conducted fact-finding, engaged directly with national political and social leaders, and gauged public sentiment to inform the decisions of Member States in New York, such as when a Personal Representative of the Secretary-General was deployed to Bahrain in 1970 for wide-ranging consultations on the future of the islands.

Special political missions assisted nations aspiring to independence with different aspects of institution-building. For example, the United Nations Commission for Libya, established in 1949 under General Assembly resolution 289 (IV) and led by Commissioner Adrian Pelt, engaged in diplomatic efforts to reconcile national political differences, such as divergent administrative systems, rival currencies and travel restrictions; build consensus on the political structure of an independent Libya; and secure the backing of external powers for the creation of a unified state. It supported the drafting of the Constitution of Libya, which was adopted by the National Assembly; the establishment of a provisional government; and the creation of a unified currency system. The Commission also organized technical assistance programmes to support the development of the country's economic and administrative infrastructure, including the training of civil servants and the establishment of public institutions. After two years of sustained diplomatic, political and technical efforts, Libya declared its independence on 24 December 1951 and became the first country to achieve independence through a process directly supported by the United Nations.

A significant challenge faced by colonized nations was the lack of adequate international awareness of those under colonial rule, which hindered global understanding of their efforts, goals and aspirations. In view of this obstacle, the drafters of the United Nations Charter included Article 73(e), whereby administering Powers were required to regularly transmit information to the Secretary-General regarding the economic, social and educational conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories. In 1961, the United Nations further strengthened its decolonization efforts by establishing the Special Committee on Decolonization (also known as the Committee of 24), which monitored the situation in Non-Self-Governing Territories and advocated the right to self-determination.

The following decades witnessed the deployment of special political missions to gather first-hand information about the conditions of people under colonial rule and to help advance their aspirations. Notable examples include the good offices mission in Bahrain and the organization of referendums and plebiscites in Territories such as the British Cameroons, Equatorial Guinea, French Togoland and Ruanda-Urundi. Special political missions also helped address tensions between newly independent nations and their former colonial powers, such as by facilitating dialogue between Equatorial Guinea and Spain in 1969.

In some regions, independence was achieved peacefully; in others, it came only after many years of armed struggle. The period of Decolonization also coincided with major shifts in the international system, including the Cold War that reshaped global politics.

Good offices and peacemaking at the height of the Cold War

As Cold War rivalries deepened, and divisions within the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations grew, the Organization deployed fewer new political missions. From the 1960s until the end of the Cold War, the General Assembly and the Security Council mandated only a small number of large, field-based civilian missions. Instead, successive Secretaries-General expanded the use of fly-in/fly-out envoys and short-term deployments of Headquarters capacities, as a means of responding to emerging conflicts and political crises and to help parties – including major powers – de-escalate tensions.

In relation to Afghanistan, for example, the Secretary-General appointed a personal representative in 1982 to initiate negotiations, mediate peace agreements and

promote the withdrawal of foreign troops, beginning with indirect negotiations and concluding with the signing of the Geneva Accords in 1988. Similarly, in 1980, after offering his good offices to help resolve the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the Secretary-General appointed a special representative to facilitate communication with and between the two Governments so that negotiations for peace could proceed on an urgent basis.

The surge in special political missions in the post-Cold War period

Following the end of the Cold War, long-standing tensions within countries that had been suppressed during the bipolar era began to resurface. The early post-Cold War years witnessed the end of protracted conflicts in Latin America – such as those in El Salvador and Guatemala – and the eruption of violent crises in parts of Africa and Asia. The political transitions in many parts of the world resulted in increased demands for United Nations political engagement and good offices, coupled with technical assistance in areas such as elections, constitution-making, reconciliation and the rule of law.

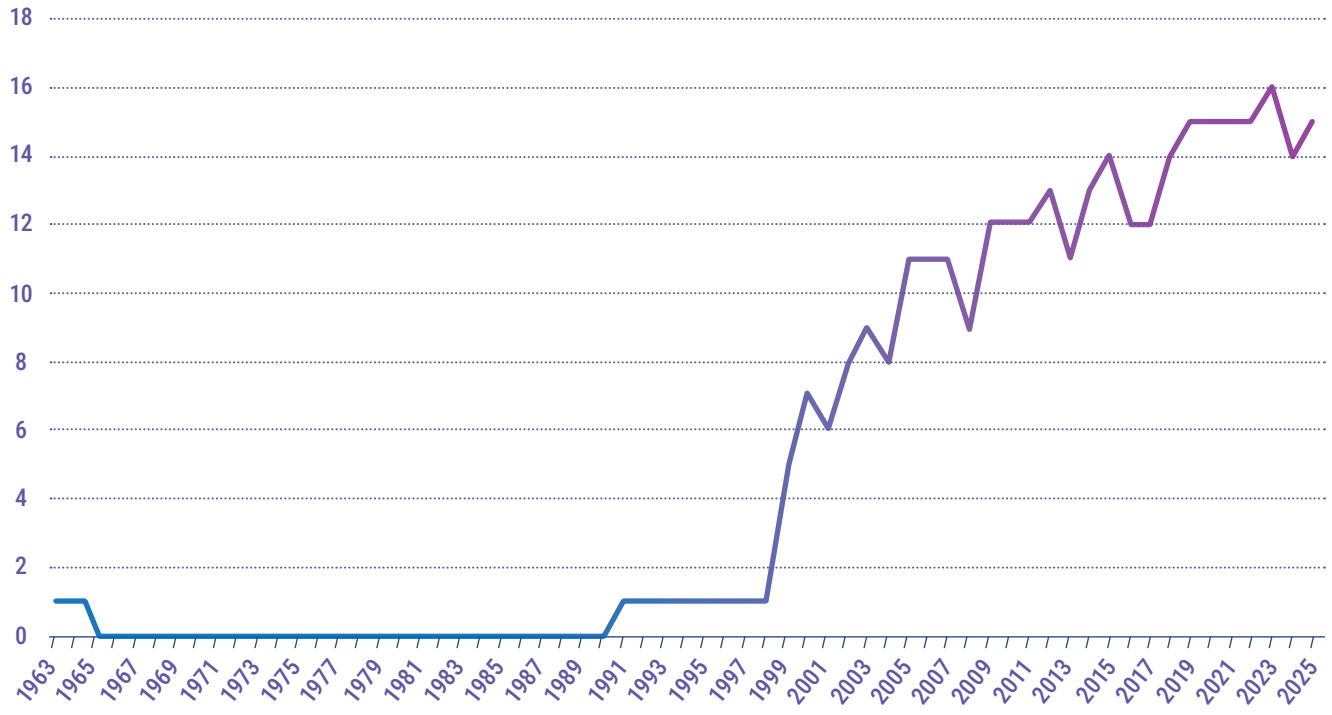
For instance, in 1993, at the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General dispatched a Special Mission to Afghanistan with a mandate "to canvass a broad spectrum of Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction".

Around the same time, the United Nations established political offices in Burundi (1993) and Somalia (1995) to advance peace and reconciliation. Electoral assistance was a central focus of other missions mandated during the late 1980s and 1990s, such as the United Nations Observer Mission in Nicaragua and the United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of Elections in Haiti.

Greater consensus and ambition in the Security Council in the post-Cold War era also contributed to expanding the scope of what constituted a threat to international peace and security, which led to the establishment of missions with multidimensional mandates. Examples include the joint United Nations–Organization of American States International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA) and the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL). These missions were responsible for carrying out a broad array of functions that, while familiar today, represented important new innovations and areas of work at the time.

The increase in the number of sanctions regimes established under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter also led to an expansion in the number of special political missions. In this context, groups of experts were mandated to monitor compliance with those regimes and to report to the respective sanctions committees on a regular basis (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Number of active sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and other entities and mechanisms in each year (1948-2025)



Box 2: Types of special political missions

Given the diversity of their mandates, special political missions have always defied categorization. However, over time, they have performed a number of different core functions, notably:

- Special or Personal Envoys of the Secretary-General carrying out good offices and peacemaking roles (e.g. Special Envoy for Yemen).
- Missions supporting decolonization processes (e.g. UN Commission for Libya).
- Sanctions monitoring mechanisms supporting the implementation of Security Council sanctions regimes (e.g. Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea).
- Fact-finding or investigative missions, established by the Security Council under Article 34 of the Charter.
- Regionally mandated offices and envoys with preventive diplomacy mandates, working in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations (e.g. United Nations Office for Central Africa).
- Missions supporting the implementation of comprehensive peace agreements or complex political transitions.
- Civilian verification or monitoring missions (e.g. United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia).
- Specialized missions that combine technical roles with political expertise (e.g. UN-OPCW Mission to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons).
- Missions with global mandates focused on specific thematic issues (e.g. Special Adviser on the prevention of genocide).

Operating in the post-post-Cold War moment: special political missions today

Special political missions remain in high demand. As of December 2025, 40 missions were deployed around the world. That number has remained broadly constant over the past decade, as the closure of some missions was offset by the establishment of new ones. One emerging trend in the current environment is that, since 2015, the United Nations has established only two special political missions with multidimensional mandates – the Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). At the time of writing, the multidimensional missions in Iraq (UNAMI) and in Somalia (UNSOM, renamed UNTMIS in 2024) were scheduled to draw down in December 2025 and November 2026, respectively. Meanwhile, the United Nations has continued to authorize missions with more narrowly defined mandates, centred around a core political role, such as the Special Envoy on Myanmar and the Personal Envoy for Sudan; sanctions-related mechanisms, such as the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting; and specialized missions, such as the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA).

Mandates and key functions

Special political missions are deployed on the basis of legislative mandates by the Security Council – through resolutions, presidential statements or exchanges of letters with the Secretary-General – or the General Assembly. Their mandates can cover preventive diplomacy, good offices, peacemaking, the implementation of peace agreements, peacebuilding, and different thematic issues, while their focus can be country-specific, regional or global. These functions date back to the early days of the United Nations, although the term "special political mission" did not emerge until the 1990s.

From 1948 until the early 1990s, political and operational roles linked to special political missions were dispersed throughout the Organization. In 1992, at the request of the President of the Security Council, the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) was established to bring together the functions involved in supporting the good offices of the Secretary-General and prioritize preventive and peacemaking activities. In 2019, following the reform of the United Nations peace and security infrastructure, DPA merged with the Peacebuilding Support Office to create the new Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), which now has oversight responsibilities for the management of special political missions, in addition to advising the Secretary-General on peace and security issues globally and overseeing good offices initiatives.

Box 3: Co-deployments of special political missions and peacekeeping operations

In some contexts, special political missions and peacekeeping operations are deployed alongside each other, working complementarily and implementing different mandates in close coordination. Often, co-deployments may indicate a need for separate good offices functions. In Cyprus, for example, the Special Adviser on Cyprus has carried out good offices functions alongside the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Other examples of co-deployment include Lebanon and Western Sahara.

Mandate flexibility

Special political missions are not drawn up on the basis of templates or predefined models. Rather, the planning and design of these missions has traditionally been driven by political engagement to understand the needs of each situation, the desire of host States, and the concrete demands made by the Security Council or the General Assembly.

This flexibility has long been a value-add of these missions. It has enabled bespoke deployments, including ones that combine a political focus with specific technical demands. For example, during the 1956 Suez Crisis, which disrupted the freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal, the General Assembly authorized the United Nations Suez Canal Clearance Operation (UNSCO). In order to clear the channel for passage, the mission deployed a United Nations-coordinated salvage fleet that successfully removed 44 underwater obstructions, allowing the canal to reopen to international shipping in April 1957. In 2002, when the International Court of Justice ruled on the settlement of the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria, the United Nations responded to a request from the two countries by establishing a special political mission to help implement the ruling, including through border demarcation. In 2013, the Security Council established a joint mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to oversee the elimination of the chemical weapons programme in Syria.

Regional mandates

A key feature of the geopolitical landscape is the cross-boundary nature of many peace and security challenges. The United Nations has responded by deploying special political missions with regional mandates. Over the past few decades, these missions have been at the forefront of efforts to forge closer partnerships with regional and subregional organizations – key partners in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding – across a wide spectrum of peace and security issues.

Regional missions are not linked to any specific situation that poses a threat to international peace and security; rather, they serve as means to anticipate such threats,

Box 4: Joint deployments with regional and subregional organizations

Special political missions have long supported and complemented regional initiatives to achieve peace. In Africa, for example, United Nations mediators coordinated with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as early as the 1960s, particularly in the context of decolonization. The collaboration has continued with OAU's successor organization, the African Union (AU).

In some cases, special political missions have operated alongside regional peacekeeping missions. A notable example is the United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB), which was deployed alongside two regional military missions – the OAU Military Observer Mission in Burundi (OMIB) from 1993 to 1996 and the AU Mission in Burundi (AMIB) from 2003 to 2004, when UNOB was replaced by a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

The United Nations has also deployed joint missions with regional organizations, such as the United Nations–OAU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region and the Joint United Nations-League of Arab States Special Envoy (later, Special Representative) for defusing the crisis in Syria.

or to enable the United Nations to engage in preventive work alongside regional actors in a preventive manner. The regional offices in West Africa and the Sahel, Central Africa and Central Asia, together with the regional envoys in the Horn of Africa and in the Great Lakes region, provide the United Nations with forward platforms for strong cooperation with regional actors and joined-up preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts.

Fact-finding mandates

Article 34 of the United Nations Charter provides that the Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

In several instances, the Security Council has established special political missions to help it gather facts and investigate situations in order to inform its decision-making. These missions with fact-finding or investigative mandates have been deployed to different contexts.

In certain situations, the Council has created fact-finding missions to help it assess whether the conditions conducive to peacemaking and conflict resolution are present. For example, following the outbreak of civil war in Yemen in April 1994, the Security Council asked the Secretary-General to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the area to assess the prospects for dialogue. Similarly, in 1948, the Council established the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan under Article 34 of the Charter to investigate and mediate the dispute between the two countries over the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

In other contexts, investigative missions have been established to gather facts about criminal acts, serious human rights violations, as well as atrocity crimes. For example, the Security Council established an International Commission of Inquiry to ascertain the facts relating to the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye of Burundi on 21 October 1993, as well as the massacres and related serious acts of violence that followed. Another example is the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission, established in Lebanon following the 14 February 2005 terrorist bombing in Beirut, which killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and others. The Commission was mandated to assist the Lebanese authorities in investigating all aspects of the attack, including identifying perpetrators, sponsors, organizers and accomplices.

Global mandates

In addition to the country- and region-specific mandates that most special political missions implement, some missions have been established with global responsibilities. These mandates are often related to specialized thematic issues, in which special political missions can help bring relevant information and analysis to intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Security Council, to inform decision-making or the implementation of its decisions.

An example of a global mandate implemented by a special political mission is that of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Following the inquiry reports into the actions of the United Nations during the tragedies of Rwanda and the Srebrenica in the 1990s, the Security Council, in resolution 1366 (2001), invited the Secretary-General to refer to the Council information and analyses within the United Nations system on cases of serious violations of international law and on potential conflict situations arising from ethnic, religious and territorial disputes and other related issues. In response, the Secretary-General appointed a Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide as part of a broader Action Plan to Prevent Genocide.

Some special political missions with a global mandate have a specific focus on countering terrorism, and supporting the Security Council's deliberations in this area. For example, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate was established in the aftermath of the 11 September attacks against the United States in 2001, to support the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee, carrying out its policy decisions and conducting expert assessments of the 193 United Nations Member States. Similarly, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, originally established by resolution 1526 (2004), has a global mandate to monitor and report on the terrorist threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and their affiliated individuals and entities further to resolution 2253 (2015).

Special political missions and peacebuilding

Even before peacebuilding emerged as a term, missions were carrying out peacebuilding tasks. During the decolonization process after the Second World War, for example, several special political missions were mandated to work with newly independent states to support the building of nascent institutions and the drafting of constitutions. The United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea, which in 1950 assisted the people of Eritrea in the formulation of the constitution and the establishment of an independent government, is an early example.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, seven special political missions deployed in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Tajikistan were mandated as "(integrated) peacebuilding offices", reflecting the importance of peacebuilding functions in supporting post-conflict recovery. These missions sought to integrate or align their peace and security-focused mandates with the work of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes deployed in the country, to allow for a more holistic peacebuilding approach. This type of integration subsequently became a hallmark of most missions with multidimensional mandates. Today the term "integrated peacebuilding offices" is no longer in use – because of the common understanding that, due to their very nature, most special political missions are generally tasked with peacebuilding responsibilities.

SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS WITH COUNTRY OR REGIONAL MANDATES

DPPA

Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace

Afghanistan

1 / Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Afghanistan

Mandate start: January 1980
Mandate end: October 1988
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution (ES-6/2)
First Head of Mission[1]: Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar (Peru)

In resolution ES-6/2 of 14 January 1980, the General Assembly deplored the armed intervention in Afghanistan and called for the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. In response, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar as his Personal Representative for Afghanistan to initiate negotiations, mediate peace agreements and promote the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar engaged in diplomatic efforts, shuttling between Moscow, Washington, Islamabad and Kabul. Mr. Diego Cordovez of Ecuador succeeded Pérez de Cuéllar in 1981 and launched indirect negotiations in Geneva, beginning in June 1982. After a series of negotiations, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, by then Secretary-General, proposed a four-point agenda, which formed the basis of the 1988 Geneva Accords signed on 14 April 1988 (Agreements on the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan) and outlined the framework for the withdrawal of Soviet troops and a political transition in Afghanistan[2].



Discussion on Afghanistan Situation Resumed in April 1983

A second round of discussions on the situation relating to Afghanistan began on 4 November 1983 at the Palais des Nations through the intermediary of Mr. Diego Cordovez, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. Mr. Shah Mohammad Dost, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, and Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, were present at Geneva for this purpose. The Government of Iran is being kept informed of the discussions through its Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Delegation of the United Nations (left), led by Mr. Diego Cordovez, second from camera, as discussions began on April 11 1983. (11 April 1983)

2 / United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan

Mandate start: December 1993
Mandate end: March 2002
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 48/208
First Head of Mission: Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri (Tunisia)

On 21 December 1993, the General Assembly expressed concern about the massive destruction of property and the serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure of Afghanistan caused by 14 years of war. The body affirmed the urgent need to initiate international action to assist Afghanistan in restoring basic services and rebuilding the country. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General dispatch a United Nations special mission to canvass a broad spectrum of the leaders of Afghanistan, solicit their views on how the United Nations could best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction, and submit its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Secretary-General.

On 11 February 1994, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri to lead the United Nations Special Mission in Afghanistan (UNSMA). The mission carried out good offices, bringing Afghan factions together in an attempt to agree on a negotiated ceasefire.[3] In resolution 1401 (2002), the Security Council decided to establish the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which replaced UNSMA in 2002 (see below).

3 / Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Afghanistan

Mandate start: July 1997
Mandate end: October 1999
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1997/592) and the President of the Security Council (S/1997/597)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria)

On 29 July 1997, the Secretary-General informed the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council of the need for the United Nations and its Member States to intensify efforts to help bring about a peaceful solution in Afghanistan. He notified the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council that he had decided to appoint Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as his Special Envoy to undertake a short-term mission to consult with interested and relevant countries and parties, as well as the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), on their positions and proposals related to peacemaking efforts in Afghanistan. The Special Envoy, whose mandate was distinct from that of the United Nations Special Mission, was tasked with conducting a fresh assessment and recommending a possible role for the Organization. He was also tasked with initiating intra-Afghan dialogue, in close cooperation with the OIC and supported by the United Nations Special Mission, and undertook peacemaking efforts to reduce tensions in the region, particularly between Iran and the Taliban.

1. In instances where multiple heads of mission were appointed during the lifespan of a mission, only the first one is listed.
2. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1981, pp. 232–236; 1982, p. 349; 1988, pp. 395–396.
3. Note by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/49/208) and the Security Council (S/1994/776); presidential statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/1994/43); *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1995, pp. 79–80.

Afghanistan

4 / Monitoring Group established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1363 (2001) and extended by resolutions 1390 (2002) and 1455 (2003)

Mandate start: July 2001
Mandate end: 2003
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1363 (2001)



Press Conference by Security Council Monitoring Group, '1267' Committee

Mr. Heraldo Munoz (right), Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, is Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). Mr. Michael Chandler(left) is Chairman of the Monitoring Group. He said that Al Qaeda continued to present a significant risk to international peace and security, and that recent events -- such as the bombings in Saudi Arabia, Chechnya, Morocco and Afghanistan -- had demonstrated that Al Qaeda still poses a significant threat. (26 June 2003)

On 15 October 1999, the Security Council adopted resolution 1267 (1999), demanding that the Taliban hand over Usama bin Laden and cease providing sanctuary and training for international terrorists and their organizations. It also requested that the Secretary-General establish a Committee of Experts to assess how the arms embargo and closure of terrorist training camps could be monitored. On 22 May 2001, the Secretary-General submitted the report of the Committee, which noted that the Taliban had not complied with resolution 1267 (1999), neither regarding Usama bin Laden nor the cessation of support for international terrorism. On 30 July 2001, the Security Council, through resolution 1363 (2001), reiterated its demands that the Taliban end its support for terrorism, close all training camps and halt illegal drug activities. It authorized an air and arms embargo, financial restrictions against the Taliban, the freezing of assets belonging to Usama bin Laden and his associates, and travel bans. The Council requested that the Secretary-General establish a monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of sanctions imposed under resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000).

On 28 January 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1390 (2002), asking the Secretary-General to assign the Monitoring Group to monitor the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 2 of the resolution, such as freezing of assets, travel ban, and arms embargo. On 17 January 2003, the Security Council, through resolution 1455 (2003), requested that the Secretary-General reappoint five experts – drawing, as much as possible and as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Monitoring Group established pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of resolution 1363 (2001) – to monitor for a further period of 12 months the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution. The Monitoring Group reported to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), and its functions were later incorporated into the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, which was established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) in January 2004.

5 / United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Mandate start: March 2002
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1401 (2002)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria)

In resolution 1401 (2002), the Security Council reiterated its endorsement of the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (Bonn Agreement). Annex II of the Bonn Agreement stipulated that the United Nations, through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, would monitor and support the implementation of all aspects of the Agreement. Previously, in resolution 1383 (2001), the Security Council had endorsed the mandate assigned to the Special Representative in Annex II and expressed its willingness to take further action, based on a report by the Secretary-General, to support the interim institutions established under the Agreement and, in due course, to facilitate its full implementation.



Special ministerial meeting on Afghanistan (September 2003)

Participants of a special ministerial meeting on 20 countries for renewed help for the Afghan government, at the UN headquarters in New York. From left to right: Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan. (24 September 2003)

Afghanistan

In response, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Security Council recommending the establishment of an integrated United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), designed to coordinate all forms of UN assistance – including political affairs, human rights and the rule of law, gender equality, humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction – to support the Afghan-led peace process. The Security Council endorsed this recommendation in resolution 1401 (2002), formally establishing UNAMA at the end of March 2002 with the mandate to provide political good offices, support the Afghan government, facilitate the peace and reconciliation process, monitor and promote human rights and the protection of civilians in armed conflict, promote good governance and encourage regional cooperation. UNAMA replaced the United Nations Special Mission in Afghanistan, or UNSMA (see above).



Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Roza Otunbayeva visited Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan

Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Roza Otunbayeva visited a project site in Mazar-i-Sharif where UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) distributed wheat seeds, poultry equipment and fertilizers to the most destitute female beneficiaries on 1 December 2022. (Source: UN photo: Tilak Pokharel/UNAMA, 1 December 2022)



Afghanistan Holds Presidential and Provincial Council Elections in April 2014

Millions of Afghan women and men cast their ballots in Presidential and Provincial Council elections on 5 April, in an important step forward in their country's first democratic transition of power. The Secretary-General welcomed "their momentous achievement".

Mr. Ján Kubiš (right), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), witnesses the historic voting at a polling station. (5 April 2014)



Afghan Audiences Debate UN's Role in Country with UNAMA Head

Nicholas Haysom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), stressed the world body's commitment to support Afghanistan and to back the nascent Government of National Unity, during a debate with Afghan audiences broadcast on state television. On the state broadcaster's flagship panel show, "Open Jirga", Mr. Haysom highlighted the UN's backing to Afghanistan, responding to questions from a studio audience brought together from across the country's 34 regions.

Mr. Haysom (left) greets audience members.(15 December 2014)

Africa

1 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Africa

Mission name change: Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Africa (September 2000)

Mandate start: December 1997
Mandate end: December 2006
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1997/994) and the President of the Security Council (S/1997/995)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 12 December 1997, the Secretary-General proposed to adjust the United Nations political presence in Africa to the new environment brought about by the momentous changes taking place in the region. The Secretary-General also sought the Council's concurrence with a new mandate for Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun as his Special Envoy in Africa. The main objective of the Special Envoy was to promote peace and security, particularly in the Horn of Africa region. The incumbent represented the United Nations in peacemaking initiatives in the Horn of Africa[4]; liaised with conflict parties as well as national, regional and international organizations concerned with conflict resolution in the Horn of Africa; provided advice, in particular on matters related to Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda; and accompanied or represented the Secretary-General at summits of the Organization of African Unity, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other regional forums on issues related to the Horn of Africa. The Special Envoy engaged in efforts to help resolve the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, in particular by supporting the mediation efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which led to the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities on 18 June 2000. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)[5], a peacekeeping mission, was deployed to help implement the Agreement[6].

2 / Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Africa

Mandate start: November 2000
Mandate end: June 2005
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2000/1082) and the President of the Security Council (S/2000/1083)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria)

The role of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Africa was established in late 1999, focusing on efforts to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa, in particular in Angola. This work led to improvements in the relationship between the Government of Angola and the United Nations, as well as the dispatch to Luanda of Mr. Mussagy Jeichande as the Secretary-General's Representative and Head of the United Nations Office in Angola, or UNOA (see below).

As the Angolan war spilled over into neighbouring countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and Zambia – the Special Adviser monitored the developments in the subregion and engaged in efforts to promote the peace process. He chaired the Joint Commission, an instrument for expanded dialogue between the Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), with the participation of the Troika of observers (Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America), designed to find a solution to issues relating to national reconciliation and the accomplishment of tasks remaining under the Lusaka Protocol. In addition, the Special Adviser provided advice to the Secretary-General on other African issues, including in relation to the Great Lakes region, southern Africa and the work of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa[7].

4. *Report of the Secretary-General on Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council*, A/61/525/Add.1, p. 7.
5. Letter from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2000/909.
6. A/61/525/Add.1, p. 7.
7. Letters from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council: S/2000/1082, S/2001/1178, and S/2003/125.



Secretary-General Visits New UN Office Facility in Addis Ababa (28 October, 2014)

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre right) poses for a photo with Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn (centre), Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (third from right in front row), Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, during his visit to the new office facility at the UN Economic Commission for Africa compound in Addis Ababa.

Also pictured: Mr. Carlos Lopes (fourth from left, front row), Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, and Mr. Haile Menkerios (third from left, front row), Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and Special Representative to the African Union. (28 October 2014)

3 / United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

- Mandate start: June 2010
- Mandate end: ongoing
- Mandating body: General Assembly
- Mandate decision: resolution 64/288
- First Head of Mission: Mr. Zachary Muburi-Muita (Kenya)

In resolution 63/310 of 14 September 2009, the General Assembly recommended improving the strategic and operational partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and its subregions. It called for an enhanced field presence of the United Nations Secretariat at the headquarters of the African Union and an appropriate level of representation at the United Nations Liaison Office at Addis Ababa, commensurate with the increasing political integration of the African Union, implementation requirements of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, and coordination needs of the United Nations system with respect to cooperation in peace and security as well as political and humanitarian affairs.

On 30 April 2010, pursuant to resolution 63/310, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that a comprehensive review of functional requirements underpinning the peace and security partnership between the United Nations and the African Union had been undertaken, with a view to integrating the United Nations peace and security presence in Addis Ababa under a single United Nations office that would provide expert advice for various specialized groups and would result in efficiencies and economies of scale. He recommended the establishment of a United Nations Office to the African Union, mandated to enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security, provide coordinated and consistent United Nations advice to the African Union on both long-term capacity-building and short-term operational support, and streamline the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa to be more cost-effective and efficient in delivering United Nations assistance to the African Union.

In response to the proposal of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/288, which established the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) on 1 July 2010.

Angola

1 / Panel of Experts on violations of Security Council sanctions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)

Mandate start: May 1999
Mandate end: March 2000
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1237 (1999)

In resolutions 1202 (1998) and 1213 (1998), the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General provide recommendations on technical and other measures to help Member States improve the implementation of sanctions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). On 12 February 1999, following consideration of the Secretary-General's recommendations in his report, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) recommended that the Security Council authorize the Secretariat to commission an expert study focusing on possible methods of tracing violations of the measures concerning arms trafficking, oil supply, the diamond trade and the movement of UNITA funds.

In resolution 1237 (1999), adopted on 7 May 1999, the Security Council welcomed the reports of the Secretary-General and the Security Council Committee regarding strengthening the enforcement of measures and decided to establish expert panels for a period of six months to investigate violations of sanctions imposed on UNITA. The panel's mandate included collecting information and investigating reports on sanctions violations, identifying parties aiding and abetting these violations, and recommending measures to prevent further breaches while enhancing the implementation of the sanctions regime. This resolution was the first to mandate a panel of experts to investigate and report on the illicit export of diamonds by groups under Security Council sanctions. The Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1237 (1999) submitted its final report in March 2000.

2 / United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA)

Mandate start: October 1999
Mandate end: August 2002
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1268 (1999)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Issa B. Y. Diallo (Guinea)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 11 August 1999, the Secretary-General informed the Council that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Angola had indicated that conditions had been created for the signing of an agreement with the United Nations, which would enable a United Nations office to begin operations in Angola. The Secretary-General also specified that he had conveyed to the Government of Angola his intention to proceed with the establishment of the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA), with a mandate based on relevant Security Council resolutions and presidential statements on Angola. On 15 October 1999, the Security Council reiterated that lasting peace and national reconciliation in Angola could be achieved through peaceful means only, reaffirming the importance of the "Acordos de Paz", the Lusaka Protocol and relevant Security Council resolutions. The Council also welcomed the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Angola and reasserted that a continued United Nations presence in Angola could significantly contribute to the promotion of peace, national reconciliation, human rights and regional security.

Accordingly, the Security Council authorized the establishment of UNOA staffed with the necessary personnel to liaise with political, military, police and other civilian authorities. UNOA was mandated to explore effective measures for restoring peace, assist the Angolan people in capacity-building, provide humanitarian assistance, promote human rights and coordinate other activities.



Security Council Establishes United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA) for Initial Six-Month Period, Unanimously Adopts Resolution 1268

The Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 1268 (1999), authorizing establishment of the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA) for an initial period of six months, until 15 April 2000. The Office will liaise with political, military, police and other civilian authorities with a view to exploring measures for restoring peace, assisting the Angolan people in capacity-building, humanitarian assistance, the promotion of human rights, and the coordination of other activities. (15 October 1999)

Angola

3 / Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)

Mandate start: April 2000
Mandate end: December 2002
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1295 (2000)

On 18 April 2000, in resolution 1295 (2000), the Security Council expressed alarm at the humanitarian impact of the ongoing civil war in Angola on the civilian population. The Council demanded that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) immediately and unconditionally comply with cited obligations, particularly the complete demilitarization of its forces and full cooperation in the immediate and unconditional extension of State administration throughout Angola. The Security Council noted that the sanctions imposed on UNITA were designed to promote a political resolution to the conflict in Angola by compelling the group to comply with its commitments under the "Acordos de Paz" and the Lusaka Protocol while limiting its ability to pursue objectives through military means. The Council also expressed concern over violations of the sanctions regime on UNITA, particularly regarding arms and military material, petroleum and petroleum products, diamonds, financial assets, and travel and representation imposed against UNITA. In addition, the Security Council welcomed the decisions taken by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in support of implementing and enforcing the sanctions imposed on UNITA.

The resolution requested that the Secretary-General establish a Monitoring Mechanism comprising up to five experts to collect additional relevant information; investigate alleged violations of the measures in resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), and 1173 (1998); follow up on leads initiated by the Panel of Experts, including through country visits; and report periodically to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) on the situation in Angola. On 9 December 2002, pursuant to resolution 1448 (2002), the Security Council terminated the sanctions and dissolved both the Committee and the Monitoring Mechanism.

4 / United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA)

Mandate start: August 2002
Mandate end: April 2003
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1433 (2002)
Head of Mission: Mr. Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria)

On 28 March 2002, the Security Council welcomed the communiqué of the Government of Angola dated 13 March 2002, describing it as a positive, constructive and forward-looking approach to ending the conflict and resuming the process of national reconciliation. The Security Council emphasized the active role the United Nations was expected to play in implementing the Lusaka Protocol, working closely with the Government of Angola. It also noted the need to renew and possibly redefine the mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA) by 15 April 2002, taking into account recent developments in the country and in consultation with the Government of Angola. In his report of 26 July 2002, the Secretary-General noted that the United Nations was required to play a critical role in consolidating peace in Angola, given the complex and difficult tasks assigned under the Lusaka Protocol, the Government's 15-point Agenda for Peace of March 2002 and the Memorandum of Understanding of 28 March 2002.

The Secretary-General thus recommended to the Security Council the establishment of a new mission in Angola to succeed UNOA and to support peace consolidation, promote national reconciliation and facilitate the country's transition to normalcy. He proposed that the new mission, the United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA), be led by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and consist of two components: a political, military and human rights section under the Special Representative's direct supervision, and a humanitarian, economic recovery and development section overseen by the Resident Coordinator, who would also serve as Deputy and coordinate efforts among United Nations agencies. On 15 August 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1433 (2002), establishing UNMA as a follow-on mission to UNOA. UNMA was mandated to assist in the conclusion of the Lusaka Protocol and support the Government of Angola in implementing residual tasks under resolution 1433 (2002), including the protection and promotion of human rights, the consolidation of peace, strengthening of the rule of law, assistance in demining activities, the coordination of support for vulnerable groups, the reintegration of demobilized soldiers and the provision of electoral assistance to the Government of Angola. This mission was the first special political mission to include a child protection mandate. UNMA was closed in April 2003, with the UN presence in the country reconfiguring to a United Nations Country Team.

Bahrain

1 / Secretary-General's Personal Representative in ascertaining the wishes of the people of Bahrain in pursuance of the agreed Terms of Reference

Mandate start: March 1970
Mandate end: April 1970
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: note from the Secretary-General (S/9726) to the Security Council
Head of Mission: Mr. Vittorio Winspeare Guicciardi (Italy)

In a note dated 28 March 1970, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, in response to requests from the Governments of Iran and the United Kingdom, and following extended discussions with both parties, he had agreed to exercise his good offices regarding the status of Bahrain. In the same communication, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Mr. Vittorio Winspeare Guicciardi of Italy as his Personal Representative to carry out this mission, with a view to ascertaining the true wishes of the people of Bahrain regarding the future status of the islands. On 30 April 1970, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council the report of his Personal Representative, which stated that "the Bahrainis he met unanimously opined that Bahrain should be a fully independent sovereign State". On 11 May 1970, the Security Council adopted resolution 278 (1970), endorsing the report and welcoming its conclusions and findings.



Secretary-General's Representative in Bahrain Presents His Report (29 April 1970)

Vittorio Winspeare-Guicciardi, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, who had completed his mission on behalf of the Secretary-General in Bahrain, presented U Thant with his report at United Nations Headquarters on 29 April 1970.

Left to right: Secretary-General U Thant; Mr. Vittorio Winspeare-Giucciardi; and Mr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs.

Balkans

1 / Special Envoys of the Secretary-General for the Balkans

Mandate start: May 1999
Mandate end: 2001
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1999/526) and the President of the Security Council (S/1999/527)
First Heads of Mission: Mr. Carl Bildt (Sweden) and Mr. Eduard Kukan (Slovakia)

On 6 May 1999, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Carl Bildt and Mr. Eduard Kukan as his Special Envoys for the Balkans. Their mandate included assisting the Secretary-General in pursuing efforts in the region consistent with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter relating to the restoration of peace and security and establishing conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes. Their specific tasks included maintaining continuous contact with all parties concerned, including the G8 at an appropriate level; facilitating a lasting political solution to the crisis as well as interim arrangements to that effect through diplomacy in coordination with all concerned; endeavouring to ensure that such arrangements or such a solution should be on the basis of agreement by all concerned; helping to coordinate United Nations system efforts to ensure coherence and avoid duplication; reporting to the Secretary-General on relevant developments; and undertaking any special assignments. The final exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in March 2001 extended the mandate of the Special Envoys until mid-year.

Bougainville (Papua New Guinea)

1 / United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB)

Mandate start: August 1998
Mandate end: December 2003
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1998/506) and the President of the Security Council (S/1998/507)
First Head of Mission[1]: Mr. Noel Sinclair (Guyana)

In its presidential statement of 22 April 1998, the Security Council expressed strong support for the Agreement on Peace, Security and Development on Bougainville (the Lincoln Agreement), signed in New Zealand on 23 January 1998. The Agreement was achieved by the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Bougainville Transitional Government, the Bougainville Resistance Force, the Bougainville Interim Government, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and Bougainville leaders. The Security Council took note of Lincoln Agreement's call for the United Nations to play a role in Bougainville and asked the Secretary-General to consider the composition and financial modalities of such involvement by the United Nations. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 2 June 1998, the Secretary-General informed the Council that a United Nations presence in Bougainville would provide added confidence to the parties to the Agreement, facilitate the tasks assigned to the Peace Monitoring Group and assist in the promotion of the political process to which the parties had committed themselves.

The United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB) was established in August 1998 with a mandate to work in conjunction with the Peace Monitoring Group, while maintaining the right to make its own observations and assessments; monitor and report on the implementation of the Lincoln Agreement and the Arawa Agreement; and chair the Peace Process Consultative Committee, which comprised representatives of the parties and which the States contributing to the Peace Monitoring Group would be invited to attend. On 30 August 2001, the parties signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement and requested that the United Nations and the Peace Monitoring Group provide assistance with its implementation, which was subsequently provided by UNPOB. UNPOB completed its mandate on 31 December 2003 and was succeeded by the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB).

2 / United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB)

Mandate start: January 2004
Mandate end: June 2005
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2003/1198) and the President of the Security Council (S/2003/1199)
Head of Mission: Mr. Tor Stenbock (Norway)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 19 December 2003, the Secretary-General noted that the peace process in Bougainville continued to make slow but steady progress, and that the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville (UNPOB) had played a significant role. The Secretary-General specified, however, that the process had not yet reached its logical conclusion, namely the establishment of an autonomous government. In the light of this, and as requested by the Government of Papua New Guinea, supported also by the Bougainville parties, the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to establish a small follow-on United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) to chair the Peace Process Consultative Committee, which would consult with the parties on the peace process in general, and make preparations for elections; report on the security and the subsequent destruction of the contained weapons; monitor the constitutional process; verify and certify substantial compliance by the parties in the handing in of weapons and whether the level of security is conducive to the holding of elections; perform other good offices, as appropriate or when requested by the parties. UNOMB successfully concluded its mandate in June 2005, following peaceful elections and the inauguration of the first autonomous government in Bougainville.

Burundi

1 / United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB)

Mandate start: November 1993
Mandate end: May 2004
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: note by the President of the Security Council (S/26631)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania)

In a note by the President of the Security Council dated 25 October 1993, the Security Council condemned and expressed grave concern over the military coup of 21 October 1993 against the democratically elected Government of Burundi, as well as the acts of violence and loss of life resulting from the coup. The Council demanded that the perpetrators desist from any actions that could escalate tensions and lead to further violence and bloodshed. The Council further requested that the Secretary-General monitor the situation in Burundi closely, in coordination with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and that he report urgently to the Council on developments.

On 2 November 1993, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. James O.C. Jonah, had traveled to Bujumbura as his Special Envoy on a good offices mission. In response to the Special Envoy's suggestion that a Special Representative be appointed to facilitate the restoration of constitutional rule, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah to fill the role. On 16 November 1993, the Security Council encouraged the Secretary-General to continue using his good offices through his Special Representative and to consider dispatching a small United Nations team as soon as possible to assist the Government of Burundi and the OAU in efforts to restore democratic institutions, rebuild confidence and stabilize the situation. That same month, the United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB) was established to support initiatives aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation between the conflict parties.

After the signing of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi on 28 August 2000, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General chaired the Implementation Monitoring Committee, in accordance with Article 3.2(b) of the Agreement. UNOB worked alongside two regional uniformed missions: the OAU Military Observer Mission in Burundi (OMIB) from 1993 to 1996 and the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) from 2003 to 2004, the latter being the first peacekeeping operation mandated by the African Union. With the adoption of Security Council resolution 1545 (2004) on 21 May 2004, UNOB was replaced by a peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), which was tasked with supporting the implementation of the Arusha Agreement.

2 / Special Envoy appointed to examine the feasibility of establishing either a commission on the truth or a judicial fact-finding commission in Burundi

Mandate start: March 1995
Mandate end: July 1995
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: presidential statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/1995/13)
Head of Mission: Mr. Pedro Nikken (Venezuela)

In its presidential statement of 29 March 1995, the Security Council expressed deep concern about the escalation of violence in Burundi. It condemned the murders of the minister of energy and mines and of the former mayor of Bujumbura by extremists and deplored the ensuing ethnically motivated killings of many people that had caused thousands to flee their homes. It encouraged all States to take the measures deemed necessary to prevent the extremists from travelling abroad and receiving support. The Security Council requested that the Secretary-General report on an urgent basis on what steps should be taken to establish an international commission of inquiry into the October 1993 coup attempt and into the massacres that followed.

In response to this request, on 28 July 1995, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council that the various options for the establishment of such a commission of inquiry gave rise to considerable difficulties. The Secretary-General thus decided to investigate the alternative of proposing to the Government of Burundi the establishment of a commission of truth. He dispatched Mr. Pedro Nikken, who had played a central role in designing similar commissions in other countries, on a mission to Burundi to discuss with the Government the possibility of using this option to address the problem of impunity in Burundi. The Secretary-General's letter to the President of the Security Council of 28 July 1995 conveyed Nikken's findings to the Security Council, recommending the establishment of an international judicial commission of inquiry. Subsequently, on 28 August 1995, the Security Council adopted resolution 1012 (1995) on establishing such a commission for Burundi (see below).

Burundi

3 / International Commission on Inquiry for Burundi

Mandate start: August 1995
Mandate end: July 1996
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1995/825) and the President of the Security Council (S/1195/826) pursuant to Security Council resolution 1012 (1995)
Head of Mission: Mr. Edilbert Razafindralambo (Madagascar)

Having received the report of the Special Envoy appointed to examine the feasibility of establishing either a commission on the truth or a judicial fact-finding commission in Burundi (see above), the Security Council adopted resolution 1012 (1995) on 28 August 1995. The Security Council welcomed the letter of the Secretary-General to the President of the Council dated 28 July 1995 recommending that an international commission of inquiry be created by resolution of the Council.

The Council took into account that the Government of Burundi called for the establishment of an international judicial commission of inquiry, as referred to in the Convention of Governance, and that correspondence from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the President of the Security Council noted with interest the letter of the Secretary-General of 28 July 1995. It expressed grave concern at reports indicating that systematic, widespread and flagrant violations of international humanitarian law had been committed and underlined the role that could be played by an international commission of inquiry into the 1993 coup attempt and into the massacres that followed.

The Council requested that the Secretary-General establish, as a matter of urgency, an International Commission of Inquiry to ascertain the facts relating to the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye on 21 October 1993, as well as the massacres and related serious acts of violence that followed. It also mandated the Commission to recommend legal, political and administrative measures to bring perpetrators to justice and promote reconciliation in Burundi. On 27 September 1995, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had appointed five internationally respected jurists as members of the Commission: Mr. Edilbert Razafindralambo of Madagascar, who would serve as chair; Mr. Abde El Ali El Moumni of Morocco; Ambassador Mehmet Güney of Turkey; Mr. Luis Herrera Marcano of Venezuela; and Mr. Michel Maurice of Canada. The Commission undertook country visits and met with government officials, witnesses and other stakeholders. In a letter dated 25 July 1996, the Secretary-General transmitted the final report of the Commission, including its recommendations, to the Security Council.

4 / Senior United Nations Adviser to the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process

Mandate start: October 1998
Mandate end: January 2001
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1998/968) and the President of the Security Council (S/1998/969)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ayité Jean-Claude Kpakpo (Benin)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 15 October 1998, the Secretary-General highlighted United Nations support for the Arusha peace talks on Burundi, noting the positive momentum generated during the inclusive talks held in June and July 1998. Emphasizing the renewed importance of the Burundi peace process in view of the crisis in the Great Lakes region of Africa, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Ayité Jean-Claude Kpakpo of Benin as Senior United Nations Adviser to the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process – Mr. Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania. Following Mr. Nyerere's death in October 1999, Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa assumed the facilitation role, bringing renewed momentum that led to the signing of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in August 2000.

Burundi

5 / United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB)

Mandate start: January 2007
Mandate end: December 2010
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: Security Council resolution 1719 (2006)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Youssef Mahmoud (Tunisia)

Following the successful conclusion of the transitional period in Burundi and the peaceful transfer of authority to a representative and democratically elected government and institutions, the Security Council adopted resolution 1692 (2006), which extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), the peacekeeping operation, for a final six months, until 31 December 2006. The Council also welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to establish an integrated office of the United Nations in Burundi after expiry of the ONUB mandate. In resolution 1719 (2006), the Security Council emphasized the importance of completing the reforms outlined in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi. The Council encouraged all political actors to continue their dialogue for stability, national reconciliation and social harmony, emphasizing the importance of national ownership of peacebuilding, security and long-term development. The Council also requested that the Secretary-General establish a United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) to support the Government in its efforts towards long-term peace and stability, including through ensuring coherence and coordination of the United Nations agencies in Burundi. BINUB was succeeded by the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) on 1 January 2011 (see below).



Opening of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi

Left to right: Ms. Antoinette Batumubwira, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation, Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, President of Burundi, and Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Executive Representative of United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), cutting the symbolic ribbon on the occasion of the official launch of BINUB, in Bujumbura, Burundi. (20 February 2007)

6 / United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB)

Mandate start: January 2011
Mandate end: December 2014
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: Security Council resolution 1959 (2010)
First Head of Mission: Ms. Karin Landgren (Sweden)

In resolution 1959 (2010), the Security Council welcomed the progress Burundi was making towards peace, stability and development, yet noted with great concern reports of continuing human rights violations, in particular extrajudicial killings and torture, and restrictions on civil liberties. The Council emphasized the need for the United Nations system and the international community to maintain their support for peace consolidation and long-term development in Burundi. To support the progress achieved by all stakeholders in consolidating peace, democracy and development in the country, the Council requested that the Secretary-General establish a United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), a significantly scaled-down presence after the closure of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB).

BNUB was established on 1 January 2011 with a mandate to assist the Government in: strengthening the independence, capacities and legal frameworks of key national institutions, in particular the judiciary and parliament; promoting and facilitating dialogue between national actors; supporting mechanisms for broad-based participation in political life; assisting efforts to fight impunity while promoting justice and reconciliation; promoting and protecting human rights; ensuring that financial and economic strategies and policies enable peacebuilding and equitable growth; and providing support to Burundi as chair of the East African Community in 2011.

Pursuant to resolution 2137 (2014) of 13 February 2014, the Security Council welcomed the continued progress that Burundi made towards peace, stability and development. The Council requested that the Secretary-General prepare BNUB's transition and the transfer of responsibilities to the United Nations Country Team by 2014. The mission completed its mandate on 31 December 2014 and transferred its responsibilities to the United Nations Country Team.



Security Council Meets on Burundi

Ms. Karin Landgren, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), briefs the Security Council at its meeting on that country. (5 July 2012)

Burundi

7 / United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi (MENUB)

Mandate start: January 2015
Mandate end: December 2015
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: Security Council resolution 2137 (2014)
Head of Mission: Mr. Cassam Uteem (Mauritius)



The United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) observed the elections between May and September 2015 in Burundi

The United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) monitored the elections in Burundi in 2015. (Source: DPPA website)

The United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) officially began operations on 1 January 2015, pursuant to resolution 2137 (2014) of 13 February 2014. In the resolution, the Security Council encouraged the Government of Burundi to enable a free and open environment for all political parties in the run-up to the 2015 elections, while taking note of the Government's request for a United Nations electoral observer mission before, during and after the elections. The resolution tasked the Secretary-General with establishing such a mission to monitor and report on the electoral process in Burundi immediately upon expiry of BNUB's mandate.

MENUB observed the Burundian elections, which were held from May to September 2015 amid violence and political instability. In its presidential statements of 26 June and 28 October 2015, the Security Council expressed deep concern about this insecurity. MENUB completed its mandate on 18 November 2015 and closed in December 2015.

8 / Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi

Mission name change: renamed as Special Envoy to the Secretary-General to lead and coordinate the political efforts of the United Nations in Burundi in May 2017, and thereafter Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi

Mandate start: November 2015
Mandate end: May 2021
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: Security Council resolutions 2248 (2015), 2279 (2016) and 2303 (2016)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Jamal Benomar (United Kingdom)

In resolution 2248 (2015) of 12 November 2015, the Security Council expressed concern about the ongoing escalation of insecurity and the continued rise in violence in Burundi, as well as the persistent political impasse. The Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to appoint a Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention to work with the Government of Burundi and subregional, regional and other stakeholders to support an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, the peaceful resolution of conflict, and national efforts to build and sustain peace. On 1 December 2015, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had dispatched his Special Adviser, Mr. Jamal Benomar, to conduct consultations with key interlocutors in the region and in Burundi. In resolution 2303 (2016) of 29 July 2016, the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General swiftly strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser to engage with all national stakeholders and other relevant actors in the crisis, provide substantive support to inter-Burundian dialogue, and work with all Burundian parties to develop confidence-building measures aimed at improving the human rights and security situation and fostering an environment conducive to political dialogue.

In a letter dated 3 May 2017, the Secretary-General informed the Council of the appointment of the former President of Burkina Faso, Mr. Michel Kafando, as his Special Envoy. The Special Envoy was tasked with providing assistance to the efforts of the East African Community (EAC) in promoting political dialogue among all Burundians, as well as with leading and coordinating United Nations political efforts to advance peace and sustainable development in Burundi. The Office of the Special Envoy worked with the EAC and the African Union as part of a Joint Technical Working Group to facilitate and support the political process in Burundi.

Burundi and Rwanda

1 / United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi

Mandate start: December 1960
Mandate end: November 1961
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolutions 1579 (XV) and 1605 (XV)
Heads of Mission: Mr. Max H. Dorsinville (Haiti), chair, Mr. Ernest Gassou (Togo), and Mr. Majia Rahnema (Iran)

In resolution 1579 (XV) of 20 December 1960, the General Assembly expressed concern about ensuring credible legislative elections and a peaceful transition to independence in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi and reaffirmed the applicability of the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on Non-Self-Governing Territories. It emphasized the importance of creating conditions conducive to free and fair elections and called on the Administering Authority, Belgium, to implement amnesty measures, lift states of emergency and facilitate the return of refugees. To assist in this process, the General Assembly established the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi, elected its three members, and tasked it with supervising preparations for the elections, attending a political conference and a post-election round table, advising on measures to foster national unity, and reporting to the Trusteeship Council and General Assembly. The resolution also incorporated the Trusteeship Council recommendation that the future of Ruanda-Urundi should lie in a single, united and composite State.

On 21 April 1961, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1605 (XV) on the future of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, expressing concern over the actions of Belgium, particularly its establishment of communal and governmental bodies without broad democratic legitimacy or United Nations endorsement. Reaffirming previous resolutions and the right of the people to self-determination, the Assembly called on Belgium to cooperate fully with the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi and to refrain from further unilateral administrative actions.

It decided that a referendum on the Mwami (monarchy) in Ruanda and legislative elections in Ruanda-Urundi, would be held in August 1961 under United Nations supervision, and mandated Belgium to organize these in consultation with the Commission. The resolution designated the three elected Commission members United Nations Commissioners and asked them to return to Ruanda-Urundi at the earliest possible time to carry out their tasks, including assisting and advising Belgium in the full and proper implementation of resolutions 1579 (XV) and 1605 (XV). On 30 November 1961, following visits to the territory, the Commission submitted a report covering events that had taken place in the Territory, the elections held in Burundi on 18 September 1961 under United Nations supervision, and the election and referendum in Rwanda, which was supervised by the United Nations. The elections led to the abolition of the monarchy in Ruanda and the establishment of two independent states of Rwanda and Burundi.

2 / United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi

Mandate start: February 1962
Mandate end: May 1962
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 1743 (XVI)
Head of Mission: Ms. Angie Brooks (Liberia)



United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi

The United Nations Commission, composed of three members elected by the General Assembly on 20 December 1960, has been requested by a General Assembly resolution of 21 April to return to the trust territory "at the earliest possible time" to assist and advise the Belgian administering authority "in the full and proper implementation" of the Assembly resolutions concerning the future of Ruanda-Urundi.

Seen here, with UN observers and other staff (seated at the table, second from left) are: Dr. Majid Rahnema (Iran) and Dr. Max H. Dorsinville (Haiti), two of three UN Commissioners. (29 May 1961)

In resolution 1743 (XVI) of 23 February 1962, the General Assembly acknowledged the report of the Commission for Ruanda-Urundi and decided to establish a new Commission for Ruanda-Urundi, composed of five Commissioners representing five Member States. It elected the Commissioners and requested that they immediately proceed to the Territory, working in full cooperation with the Administering Authority, Belgium, and national authorities to achieve: a) the reconciliation of the various political factions in the Territory; b) the return and resettlement of all refugees; c) the guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, freedom of association and the right to political activity under peaceful conditions; d) the maintenance of law and order; e) arrangements for the training of indigenous security forces with the help of experts or a training mission provided by the United Nations, and the rapid withdrawal of Belgian military and paramilitary forces, to be completed before independence. The General Assembly also asked the Commission to engage in talks with the Administering Authority, the Government of Rwanda, and the Mwami (King) and his representatives, with a view to reaching agreement on the future of the Mwami. The Commission submitted its report to the General Assembly in May 1962, with an extensive analysis of the political environment for independence in Burundi and Rwanda, and making different recommendations regarding the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and granting of independence to the two countries.

Cambodia

1 / Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia

Mandate start: March 1994
Mandate end: December 1999
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1994/389) and the President of the Security Council (S/1994/390), pursuant to Security Council resolution 880 (1993)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Benny Widyono (Indonesia)

In resolution 880 (1993) of 4 November 1993, the Security Council recognized Cambodia's progress towards peace and stability and emphasized the need for continued international support for reconstruction and peacebuilding. The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's intention, in the light of the request by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the continuing commitment of the United Nations to Cambodia, to appoint a person to coordinate the United Nations presence in the country, in accordance with the principles of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements, following the conclusion of the peacekeeping mandate of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

In a letter dated 29 March 1994, the Secretary-General informed the Council that Mr. Benny Widyono of Indonesia would take on these responsibilities as his Special Representative for Cambodia, following the withdrawal of the United Nations Military Liaison Team, except for three members that remained as military advisers supporting the Special Representative.

Cameroon and Nigeria

1 / United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration

Mandate start: March 1959
Mandate end: March 1961
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolutions 1350 (XIII), 1352 (XIV) and 1473 (XIV)
Head of Mission: Dr. Jalal Abdoh (Iran)

On 5 December 1958, the General Assembly requested that the Trusteeship Council examine the reports of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa on the Cameroons under French administration and the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration. The General Assembly asked the Trusteeship Council to share its observations and recommendations so that the Assembly could implement measures required for the full attainment of the objectives of the International Trusteeship System. Having received this report of the Trusteeship Council under the agenda item of "The Future of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration", the General Assembly recommended that the Administering Authority take steps to organize, in consultation with a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and under the supervision of the United Nations, separate plebiscites in the northern and southern parts of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, in order to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of the Territory concerning their future.

With respect to the northern part of the Territory, the General Assembly recommended that the plebiscite take place in mid-November 1959 and ask voters to choose whether they wished the Northern Cameroons to become part of the Northern Region of Nigeria or whether they preferred to decide on this matter at a later date. In resolution 1350 (XIII), the General Assembly decided to appoint a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner to exercise, on behalf of the Assembly, all the necessary powers and functions of supervision, assisted by observers and staff to be appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Commissioner.

Supported by 36 members of the United Nations Secretariat, the Commissioner supervised the various phases of the two plebiscites and the counting of ballots.[8] The first plebiscite took place on 7 November 1959 in the Northern Cameroons. The Commissioner reported that nearly 88 per cent of registered voters had cast votes and almost 62 per cent were "in favour of deciding the future of the Northern Cameroons at a later date".[9] The results of the plebiscite held on 11 February 1961 in the Southern Cameroons showed that 70 per cent of voters supported joining the Republic of Cameroon.[10] In the Northern

8. *Report of the United Nations Commissioner for the supervision of the plebiscites in the southern and northern parts of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration*, pp. 20–22.
9. *Report of the Fourth Committee*, A/4348, pp. 1, 3.
10. *Report of the United Nations Commissioner for the supervision of the plebiscites in the southern and northern parts of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration*, T/1556, pp. 123, 140, 145.

Cameroon and Nigeria

Cameroons plebiscite held on 11 and 12 February 1961, 60 per cent of voters favoured joining the Federation of Nigeria. The Commissioner submitted his report to the Trusteeship Council for its consideration and transmission to the General Assembly on 30 March 1961, stating that the people had had the opportunity to express their wishes freely and secretly at the polls.[11]

2 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Cameroon and Nigeria

Mandate start: February 1996
Mandate end: May 1996
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: identical letters (S/1996/150) from the President of the Security Council addressed to the President of Cameroon and the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria
Head of Mission: Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria)

On 29 February 1996, in identical letters to the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, the President of the Security Council deplored the resumption of fighting on the Bakassi peninsula, which threatened regional peace and stability. Taking note of correspondence received from the foreign ministers of Cameroon and Nigeria, the Council stated that its members regretted the loss of life and destruction suffered by civilians. It specified that the dispute had already been referred to the International Court of Justice and that the fighting thus threatened respect for peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms. It called on both sides not to take any unilateral action, particularly the use of force, as that could complicate the dispute settlement process.

Noting that the Secretary-General had proposed to the parties that he could dispatch a fact-finding mission to the Bakassi peninsula, the Council welcomed the offer and requested that he, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, continue to monitor the matter closely and report to the Council on the results of the mission. It urged the two countries to cooperate fully with this mission. In a letter dated 24 May 1996, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that his Special Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, had visited Cameroon and Nigeria and held meetings with the two heads of State in May 1996, and that he had obtained consent from both countries for the deployment of a United Nations fact-finding and goodwill mission to de-escalate tensions.

3 / Goodwill Mission to Cameroon and Nigeria

Mandate start: May 1996
Mandate end: October 1996
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1996/390) and the President of the Security Council (S/1996/391)
Head of Mission: Mr. Omar Halim (Indonesia)

In a letter dated 24 May 1996, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that his Special Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, visited Cameroon and Nigeria in May 1996 and obtained consent from both countries for the deployment of a United Nations fact-finding and goodwill mission to de-escalate the tensions between the two countries. In this context, the Secretary-General dispatched a Goodwill Mission to Cameroon and Nigeria in September 1996. The mandate of the mission was: a) gathering information and formulating suggestions that might enable the parties to adopt confidence-building measures to help establish an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence; and b) examining with the parties concrete, specific measures designed to reduce tension and prevent a deterioration of the situation in the area. Mr. Omar Halim led the mission, which included representatives of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Office of Legal Affairs.

The team members left New York on 14 September 1996 for Yaoundé and Abuja, where they consulted the authorities of the two countries. After visiting areas of the Bakassi peninsula controlled by both sides, the group revisited the respective capitals for further consultations. The mission also paid a one-day visit to Lomé to meet with President Gnassingbé Eyadéma of Togo, who had been mediating between the two countries. The mission reported that it obtained the fullest support and cooperation from all parties. The Secretary-General informed the Security Council of the mission's key findings in October 1996.

4 / United Nations support to the Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission

Mandate start: April 2004
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2004/298) and the President of the Security Council (S/2004/299)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania)

11. Ibid., p. 249.

Cameroon and Nigeria

In November 2002, at the request of the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria, the Secretary-General established the Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission to facilitate implementation of the 10 October 2002 judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Cameroon–Nigeria border dispute. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 17 March 2004, the Secretary-General stated that the commission's mandate derived from a joint communiqué adopted after the two leaders met with him in Geneva on 15 November 2002. In the communiqué, the two parties agreed to facilitate implementation of the Court ruling by establishing a mixed commission comprising representatives of both sides, to be chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission was mandated to consider the implications of the ICJ's decision, including the demarcation of the land boundary between the two countries; making recommendations on additional confidence building measures such as the development of projects to promote joint economic ventures and cross-border cooperation; troop withdrawal from relevant areas along the land boundary; eventual demilitarization of the Bakassi peninsula, with the possibility of deploying international personnel to observe the withdrawal; and reactivation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel serves as the chairperson of the Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission. Support capacities for the commission are co-located in the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel. Prior to the expansion of the mandate of the Office in 2016 to include responsibilities over the Sahel, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa served as the chairperson of the Commission.



Secretary-General, Cameroon and Nigeria Sign Agreement Over Border Dispute

Secretary-General Kofi Annan (centre) is pictured with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo (right) with his Cameroonian counterpart Paul Biya (left) at the signing of the agreement regarding their dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula, in Greentree, Long Island in New York. (June 12 2006)

Central Africa

1 / United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)

Mandate start: March 2011
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2009/697) and the President of the Security Council (S/2010/457), pursuant to a report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/2008/186)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Abou Moussa (Chad)

In a letter dated 11 December 2009, the Secretary-General referenced the request of heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for the establishment of a United Nations Office for Central Africa, modelled on the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). He noted that ECCAS members affirmed that the presence would help to define and implement a comprehensive and integrated approach to the challenges related to peace, security and development in Central Africa, as highlighted in the presidential statement of the Security Council dated 31 October 2002. Accordingly, having consulted with and received the consent of ECCAS members, the Secretary-General informed the members of the Security Council of his intention to establish a Regional Office for Central Africa.

On 30 August 2010, the Security Council welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to establish the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA). UNOCA was officially inaugurated in March 2011 in Libreville, Gabon. Its mandate includes cooperating with and assisting ECCAS, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and other key partners in their promotion of peace and stability in the broader Central African subregion; carrying out good offices roles and special assignments in countries of the subregion, including in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding; strengthening the capacity of the Department of Political Affairs to advise the Secretary-General on matters relating to peace and security in the region; enhancing linkages in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the subregion so as to promote an integrated subregional approach; and reporting to United Nations Headquarters on issues of subregional significance.

Central African Republic

1 / United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA)

Mandate start: February 2000
Mandate end: December 2009
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary General (S/1999/1235) and the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1236), followed by a presidential statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/2000/5)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Sy (Senegal)

In resolution 1230 (1999) of 26 February 1999, the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General consider, in accordance with the presidential statement of 29 December 1998, the role of the United Nations in the transition from peacekeeping to post-conflict peacebuilding in the Central African Republic. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to submit, in consultation with the Government of the Central African Republic, recommendations regarding a potential United Nations presence following the termination of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA). In his letter dated 3 December 1999, the Secretary-General informed the Council that, in response to that request, he had dispatched a multidisciplinary mission to the country. Following several meetings, the Government agreed on the establishment of a post-MINURCA presence to support its efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions, and facilitate the mobilization of international political support and resources for national reconstruction and economic recovery.

The Secretary-General recommended the establishment of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) with a mandate of: assisting national efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and reconciliation mechanisms; providing good offices at the request of the Government; monitoring the political and security situation; strengthening capacities for human rights promotion and protection; overseeing security-related reforms such as armed forces restructuring and reintegration programs; supporting police reform and continuing MINURCA training programmes; promoting an integrated approach to post-conflict reconstruction, economic recovery and good governance; and mobilizing international support for security reforms and socio-economic programmes. In a presidential statement dated 10 February 2000, the Security Council welcomed the decision by the Secretary-General. BONUCA was established on 15 February 2000. BONUCA was succeeded by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) in January 2010.

2 / United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA)

Mandate start: January 2010
Mandate end: April 2014
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: presidential statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/2009/5)
First Head of Mission: Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde (Ethiopia)

In his letter to the President of the Security Council dated 3 March 2009, the Secretary-General highlighted that the inclusive political dialogue, held in Bangui from 8 to 20 December 2008, "represented perhaps the most genuinely inclusive attempt to foster national reconciliation in the Central African Republic." He noted that while the peace agreements concluded by all parties at the dialogue were still fragile, the successful conclusion of the talks provided a new opportunity for meaningful steps towards sustainable peacebuilding. He also stated that he felt encouraged by the active involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission in peace efforts in the country. In order to provide adequate support for the promising peacebuilding opportunities arising from the dialogue and the involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Secretary-General recommended the establishment of an integrated office in the Central African Republic.

In a presidential statement dated 7 April 2009, the Security Council welcomed this recommendation to establish the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). The Council mandated BINUCA to ensure the coordination and coherence of United Nations peacebuilding support in the country while supporting the Government's efforts to consolidate peace, foster national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions, and promote and protect human rights. On 21 December 2009, the Security Council welcomed the establishment of BINUCA on 1 January 2010 and confirmed its full support for the efforts of the Special Representative in this regard. Following the deterioration of the security situation in the country and escalation of violence with risks for mass atrocities, the Security Council authorized a peacekeeping operation – the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) – on 10 April 2014, into which BINUCA was subsumed.

Central African Republic

3 / Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2745 (2024)
(Formerly known as the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic)

Mandate start: December 2013
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2127 (2013)

In resolution 2127 (2013) of 5 December 2013, the Security Council expressed deep concern at the continuing deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR). Noting a total breakdown in law and order, the absence of the rule of law, intercommunal tensions and resulting instability in CAR, the Central African region and beyond, the Council also expressed grave concern about multiple, increasing violations of international humanitarian law and widespread human rights violations and abuses. The resolution specifically cited abuses by former Séléka and self-defence militias, in particular those known as the "antibalaka", including those involving extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence against women and children, rape, recruitment and use of children, and attacks against civilians. It imposed a comprehensive arms embargo on CAR, established a Sanctions Committee to monitor the implementation of these measures, and requested that the Secretary-General create a Panel of Experts composed of five members to support the Sanctions Committee.



Special Representative for Central African Republic Briefs Council

Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), briefs the Security Council on the situation in that country. (8 December 2010)



Secretary-General Consults with Advisers before Meeting

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) consults with Margaret Vogt (centre), his Special Representative for the Central African Republic, and B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, before his meeting with the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, Faustin Archange Touadera. (5 April 2012)

On 28 January 2014, the Security Council strengthened the sanctions regime through resolution 2134 (2014), which introduced targeted sanctions (a travel ban and asset freeze) against individuals and entities. The Council mandated the Panel of Experts to gather information regarding the implementation of the measures, including the arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban; to assist the Sanctions Committee in designating individuals and entities; and to identify areas where the capacities of Member States require strengthening. On 30 July 2024, in resolution 2745 (2024), the Security Council decided to lift the arms embargo on CAR, but it maintained the measures on armed groups and associated individuals operating in the country. The Council also renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts, renaming it Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2745 (2024). The Council requested the Panel to devote special attention to the analysis of illicit transnational trafficking networks that fund and supply armed groups in CAR and threats relating to explosive ordnance, in cooperation with experts from the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and subregional communities such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), as well as other relevant panels or groups of experts established by the Security Council.

Central Asia

1 / United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

Mandate start: December 2007
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2007/279) and the President of the Security Council (S/2007/280)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Miroslav Jenča (Slovakia)

On 16 May 2007, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General noted that the five Central Asian States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – had requested the establishment of a United Nations preventive presence in the region. In response, and following consultations with the Governments of the five States, as well as regional organizations and United Nations entities, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), to be based in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The Centre was established as the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding was phased out and closed.

UNRCCA functions include: liaising with the Governments of the region on issues relevant to preventive diplomacy; monitoring and carrying out analysis of the situation; maintaining contact with regional organizations to encourage their peacemaking efforts and initiatives; and facilitating coordination and information exchange. In addition, the Centre provides a political framework and leadership for the preventive activities of United Nations country teams and maintains close contact with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to ensure a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the situation in the region. The UNRCCA five-year programme of action for the period 2021–2025 was adopted at the annual meeting of deputy ministers of foreign affairs in December 2020.



Secretary-General Visits UNRCCA Office in Turkmenistan

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (third from right) speaks to staff members at the Office of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Also pictured is Mr. Ban's wife, Yoo Soon-taek (right). (2 April 2010)

Colombia

1 / United Nations Mission in Colombia

Mandate start: January 2016
Mandate end: September 2017
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2261 (2016)
Head of Mission: Mr. Jean Arnault (France)

On 25 January 2016, the Security Council adopted resolution 2261 (2016), in which it welcomed the progress in the negotiations between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia–Ejército del Pueblo, FARC–EP), their commitment to ending the armed conflict, and the confidence-building measures implemented to deliver the first dividends of the peace process to the Colombian people. It acknowledged that the Government of Colombia and the FARC–EP foresaw that a peace agreement would include a tripartite mechanism to monitor and verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, as well as the laying down of arms, and that both parties recognized the contribution that a United Nations observer mission could make in the context of the tripartite mechanism.



FARC-EP Hands Over Nearly All Weapons to UN Mission in Colombia

A ceremony was held in Mesetas, Colombia, to mark the hand-over of nearly all of the remaining weapons held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) to the UN Mission in the country, for registering and storing.The Mission has now stored 7,132 arms, which constitutes all the weapons that were registered from FARC-EP. The only exclusions from the list are the weapons used to provide security in the 26 FARC-EP camps until 1 August 2017. Jean Arnault (centre), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Mission in Colombia, at the hand-over ceremony with Juan Manuel Santos Calderón (left), President of Colombia; and Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri (right), also known as Timoleon Jimenez or "Timochenko"", Commander of FARC-EP. (27 June 2017)

The Council decided to establish a special political mission with non-uniformed international observers to participate as the international component and coordinator of the tripartite mechanism. The Council also requested that the Secretary-General initiate preparations, including on the ground, and that he present detailed recommendations to the Security Council for its consideration and approval regarding the size, operational aspects and mandate of the mission, consistent with a joint communiqué issued on 19 January 2016 in which the Government of Colombia and the FARC–EP announced their decision to establish a tripartite mechanism.

Colombia

On 8 March 2016, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Mr. Jean Arnault of France as his Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Mission in Colombia. Furthermore, through his letter of 27 July 2016, the Secretary-General communicated to the Council that, on 23 June 2016, the Government of Colombia and the FARC–EP had concluded the Agreement on the Bilateral and Definitive Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities and Laying Down of Arms. He also informed the Council that, under the Agreement, and consistent with the mandate set out in Security Council resolution 2261 (2016), the mission would assume responsibility for the verification of the laying down of arms. It would coordinate the work of the national, regional and local headquarters of the monitoring and verification mechanism, which was tasked with monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities. The mission would also be responsible for settling differences between the parties and formulating recommendations regarding the implementation of the ceasefire, cessation of hostilities and the laying down of arms. Finally, it would report independently on compliance with the commitments made by the parties in the Agreement. In accordance with resolution 2261 (2016), the mission's ceasefire monitoring and verification responsibilities were activated following the signing, on 26 September 2016, of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. Following the completion of its mandate, the mission was succeeded by the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (see below).



United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia Participates in "Paint Your Voice" Event in Colombia

The UN Verification Mission in Colombia local team in San José de Oriente participated in a project called "Paint your voice", organized by the Mobile Public Library. Other participants included members of the local community, ex-combatants of the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army), and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. The project included the creation of a series of murals related to the final peace agreement. This mural focuses on the theme of point 3 of the peace agreement, the end of conflict. (14 October 2017)

2 / United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

Mandate start: July 2017
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2366 (2017)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Jean Arnault (France)

In resolution 2366 (2017) of 10 July 2017, the Security Council welcomed the completion of the laying down of individual arms by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia–Ejército del Pueblo, FARC-EP), as verified by the United Nations Mission in Colombia (see above). It also acknowledged that the President of Colombia requested a follow-on mission on behalf of the Government of Colombia and the FARC–EP. Accordingly, the Council established the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to verify the parties' implementation of sections 3.2 and 3.4 of the Final Agreement, signed by the Government of Colombia and FARC–EP in 2016.

Security Council resolution 2574 (2021) expanded the mission mandate to include verifying compliance with and implementation of the restorative sentences issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, as envisioned under the Final Agreement. Security Council resolution 2673 (2023) further expanded the mandate to include monitoring the implementation of the comprehensive rural reform and ethnic chapters of the Final Agreement, as requested by the Government on behalf of the parties in a letter dated 17 October 2022. Through resolution 2694 (2023), the Security Council expanded the mandate of the mission to monitor and verify the implementation of the ceasefire outlined in the Bilateral, National and Temporary Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the National Liberation Army[12] ("Second Cuba Agreement").

12. Letter dated 17 June 2023 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2023/455), pp. 8–10.

Cook Islands

1 / United Nations Representative for the Supervision of the Elections in the Cook Islands

Mandate start: February 1965
Mandate end: June 1965
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 2005 (XIX)
Head of Mission: Mr. Omar A.H. Adeel (Sudan)

Taking into account the recommendations on the future of the Cook Islands contained in the report of the Special Committee on Decolonization, which reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of the Territory of the Cook Islands to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2005 (XIX) of 18 February 1965. The Assembly authorized supervision by the United Nations of the elections to be held in the Cook Islands in the latter part of April 1965. It also authorized the Secretary-General to appoint a representative to supervise the elections with the assistance of the necessary observers and staff; to observe the proceedings concerning the constitution in the newly elected Legislative Assembly; and to report to the Special Committee on Decolonization. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Omar A.H. Adeel as the United Nations Representative for the Supervision of Elections in the Cook Islands. The elections took place on 20 April 1965 and discussions in the Legislative Assembly were held between 10 and 19 May 1965. The United Nations Representative transmitted his report to the Secretary-General on 30 June 1965, as noted by the General Assembly in a resolution dated 16 December 1965.

Côte d'Ivoire

1 / Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire

Mandate start: February 2005
Mandate end: April 2016
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1584 (2005)

In resolution 1584 (2005) of 1 February 2005, the Security Council deplored the repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement of 3 May 2003 and recalled the obligations of all Ivorian parties to comply fully with the agreement; to refrain from any violence, in particular against civilians, including foreign citizens; and to cooperate fully with the activities of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). The Council reaffirmed its decision in paragraph 7 of resolution 1572 (2004) of 15 November 2004 that all States, particularly those bordering Côte d'Ivoire, take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Côte d'Ivoire of arms or any related materiel, as well as the provision of any assistance, advice or training related to military activities. By the same resolution, the Security Council also imposed a travel ban and an assets freeze on designated individuals and entities. It requested that the Secretary-General create a Group of Experts to assist the Security Council Committee established by paragraph 14 of resolution 1572 (2004) in its work to monitor the implementation of the sanction measures.

The Council mandated the Group of Experts to examine and analyse information gathered by UNOCI and French forces, in the context of the UNOCI monitoring mandate; to gather all relevant information on flows of arms and related materiel, on the provision of assistance, advice or training related to military activities, and on networks operating in violation of the restrictive measures it established; to consider and recommend ways of improving the capabilities of States to implement the measures; to report to the Council through the Committee; to collaborate with UNOCI and other relevant groups of experts; and to provide the Committee with a list of individuals and entities that violate the measures imposed for potential further action by the Council.

By resolution 1643 (2005), the Council decided that all States shall take the necessary measures to prevent the import of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire to their territory. By resolution 2153 (2014) the Council decided to terminate the measures preventing the importation by any State of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. By resolution 2283 (2016) of 28 April 2016, the Security Council decided to terminate the sanctions regime and to dissolve the Committee and its Group of Experts.

Cyprus

1 / Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

Name change: previous titles include United Nations Mediator in Cyprus, Resident Representative in Cyprus, Special Envoy on Cyprus, Personal Envoy on Cyprus

Mandate start: March 1964
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 186 (1964)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Sakari S. Tuomioja (Finland)

The Security Council initially requested the Secretary-General to use his good offices in Cyprus in its resolution 186 (1964), by appointing a mediator.[13] The mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus (OSASG-Cyprus) derives from the priorities established in the same and subsequent relevant Security Council resolutions, and related decisions and an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council.[14]



Ralph J. Bunche Visits Cyprus

Mr. Ralph J. Bunche (center, holding hat), Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, on arrival at the airport in Nicosia, was met by Mr. Sakari S. Tuomioja, United Nations Mediator in Cyprus (to the right of Mr. Bunche), and (left to right, front row) Mr. Caesar Ortiz-Tinocco, UN Information Officer to the UN Force Commander in Cyprus; Mr. George Pelaghias, Chief protocol Officer; Mrs. Stella Sougiotou, Acting Foreign Minister; and, Lt.-Gen. Prem Singh Gyani, Commander of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). (8 April 1964)

Since 1964, multiple senior United Nations officials have represented the Secretary-General in carrying out the good offices mandate to support the Cyprus peace process. While the mandate continued throughout, there were active periods of negotiations on the Cyprus issue during the years 1964–1965, 1968–1973, 1977, 1979, 1980–1986, 1988–1992, 1999–2004 and 2008–2017. In addition, the Acheson Plans were put forward in 1964 (by the initiative of the United States of America), and the Anglo–American–Canadian Plan was put forward in 1978. Between 1993 and 1998, the United Nations was engaged in a process focused on confidence-building measures; and between 2018 and the present, the focus has been on facilitating the Technical Committees (bodies formed by the two Cypriot leaders in the context of the peace process), confidence-building and consultations with the parties seeking common ground to resume active negotiations. Over the years, representatives of the Secretary-General carrying out his mission of good offices (whether Special Adviser, Representative or Personal Envoy) have, along with United Nations staff from the special political mission, engaged with the leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities and other concerned parties, including the three guarantor powers (Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom, members of the Security Council and the European Union to advance the search for a comprehensive and mutually agreed solution to the division in Cyprus.

After the results of the referenda on the Annan Plan in 2004, the Secretary-General saw "no apparent basis for resuming the good offices effort as long as the political stalemate continued" and OSASG-Cyprus was temporarily closed. In 2008, the current iteration of the special political mission in Cyprus was put in place and the Security Council welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser at the appropriate time in resolution 1818 (2008).

Since the Conference on Cyprus ended inconclusively in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, in 2017, there has not been a Special Adviser in post. Ms. Ángela Holguín Cuéllar served as Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General from January through July 2024. In March 2025, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, as well as the three guarantor powers agreed to the re-appointment of a Personal Envoy on Cyprus, with Ms. Cuéllar re-appointed in May 2025. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) provides backstopping support and guidance to the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus. The mission works closely with the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP).



Secretary-General Visits Switzerland

Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited Switzerland, where the talks involving the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot parties, with the participation of Greece and Turkey, were underway.
Left to right: Alvaro de Soto, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Mr. Annan, and Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. (29 March 2004)

13. Subsequent Security Council resolutions relevant to the mandate of the mission of good offices in Cyprus of the Secretary-General, include 367 (1975), 541 (1983), 550 (1984), 649 (1990), 1250 (1999), 1251 (1999), 1475 (2003), 1728 (2006), 1758 (2007), 1818 (2008), 1847 (2008), 1873 (2009), 1930 (2010), 1986 (2011), 2026 (2011), 2058 (2012), 2114 (2013), 2135 (2014), 2168 (2014), 2197 (2015), 2234 (2015), 2263 (2016), 2300 (2016), 2338 (2017), 2369 (2017), 2398 (2018), 2430 (2018), 2453 (2019), 2506 (2020), 2537 (2020), 2561 (2021), 2587 (2021), 2618 (2022), 2674 (2023), and 2771 (2025).
14. ACABQ Report, A/77/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2, para. 9.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

1 / Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Mandate start: June 2009
Mandate end: 2024
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1874 (2009)

In resolution 1874 (2009) of 12 June 2009, the Security Council condemned the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 25 May 2009. It considered the test to be in violation of resolution 1718 (2006), in which the Council had condemned a previous nuclear test proclaimed by the country on 9 October 2006 and demanded that the country not conduct any further test or launch a ballistic missile. The Council expressed grave concern at the challenge the recent test posed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to international efforts aimed at strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, and to peace and stability in the region and beyond. It requested the Secretary-General to create a Panel of Experts comprising up to seven experts to support the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006).

The Panel's mandate included: a) assisting the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in resolution 1718 (2006) and the functions specified in paragraph 25 of resolution 1874 (2009); b) gathering, examining and analysing information from States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures imposed in resolution 1718 (2006), in particular incidents of non-compliance; and c) making recommendations on actions the Council, or the Committee or Member States, could consider to improve implementation of the measures imposed in resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009). The mandate was renewed annually. The Panel's mandate ended on 30 April 2024 after the Security Council did not adopt a draft resolution to renew its mandate.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo Peace Process

Mandate start: April 1999
Mandate end: 2005
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1999/379) and the President of the Security Council (S/1999/380)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Moustapha Niasse (Senegal)

In a letter dated 1 April 1999, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Moustapha Niasse of Senegal as his Special Envoy for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Peace Process. He made the decision following consultations with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the President of Zambia, who had been spearheading the peace process initiated by the Southern African Development Community. In addition to demonstrating the commitment of the Secretary-General to the regional efforts directed at restoring peace in the DRC, the Special Envoy was mandated to: support regional peace efforts in the DRC; assess progress made in the Lusaka peace process; ascertain the positions of the parties towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict; identify obstacles to a ceasefire; engage with Congolese leaders to assess the prospects for broader political participation and national reconciliation; and consult African leaders as to measures the United Nations could take to assist peace initiatives. The Special Envoy was also tasked with determining the type of international support needed for peacemaking efforts and reporting to the Secretary-General with a recommendation on how to assist or complement the existing peace initiatives.

On 4 June 2002, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he decided to appoint Mr. Moustapha Niasse as his Special Envoy to help the Congolese parties to facilitate agreement on power sharing during the transition process, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity and the facilitator, Mr. Ketumile Masire. On 16 December 2002, the Congolese parties signed an accord on an all-inclusive power-sharing arrangement for a transition government in the DRC, following intensive negotiations facilitated jointly by the Government of South Africa and the Special Envoy.[15] The Special Envoy also assisted the parties to establish a Follow-up Commission which prepared for the installation of the new institutions in accordance with the terms of the All-Inclusive Agreement.[16] The Special Envoy's mandate concluded in 2005.

15. Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 17 December 2022.
16. Thirteenth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2003/211), 21 February 2003.

2 / Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mandate start: June 2000
Mandate end: October 2003
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: presidential statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/2000/20)

In resolution 1291 (2000) dated 24 February 2000, the Security Council expressed its serious concern at reports of illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including in violation of the sovereignty of that country. It called for an end to such activities, expressed its intention to consider the matter further, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council within 90 days on ways to achieve this goal. On 18 April 2000, the Secretary-General proposed that the Security Council consider creating a panel of experts to undertake a preliminary investigation into the situation and to revert to the Council thereafter with its recommendations.

A Security Council mission visited the DRC from 4 to 8 May 2000, discussed the illegal exploitation of natural resources with the Government, and recommended the early establishment of an expert panel to undertake an investigation into the matter. On 2 June 2000, the Council adopted a presidential statement, requesting that the Secretary-General establish such a panel with a mandate to: a) follow up on reports and collect information on all activities involving illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth in the DRC, including violations of national sovereignty; b) research and analyse the links between that exploitation and the continuation of the conflict in the DRC; and c) revert to the Council with recommendations. The Panel of Experts submitted its final report on 23 October 2003.

3 / Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mandate start: March 2004
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: Security Council resolution 1533 (2004)

In resolution 1533 (2004), adopted on 12 March 2004, the Security Council condemned the continuing illicit flow of weapons into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and underscored the right of the Congolese people to control their own natural resources. The Council demanded that all States take the necessary measures to prevent the supply of arms, related materiel, and assistance to armed groups operating in North and South Kivu and in Ituri, as well as to groups not party to the Global and Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, signed in Pretoria on 17 December 2002. It decided to establish a Security Council Committee to oversee the implementation of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1493 (2003) and requested that the Secretary-General appoint a Group of Experts consisting of no more than four experts to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate, including by recommending ways to improve the implementation of imposed measures by States, in particular those in the region.

The Council mandated the Group of Experts to examine and analyse information gathered by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (replaced by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2010) regarding flows of arms and related materiel, as well as networks operating in violation of the sanction measures. The Group was also tasked with exchanging relevant information with MONUC, in the fulfilment of the Group's monitoring mandate. Following several expansions of its mandate, the Group also investigates networks supporting armed groups through illicit activities, including the exploitation of natural resources; monitors the implementation of travel bans and asset freezes on designated individuals; and provides recommendations to strengthen Member States' implementation capacity. The mandate has been regularly renewed, most recently by resolution 2783 (2025) until 1 August 2026.

Dominican Republic

1 / Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic

Mandate start: May 1965
Mandate end: September 1966
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 203 (1965)
Head of Mission: Mr. José Antonio Mayobre (Venezuela)

Following the deterioration of the security situation in the Dominican Republic in the aftermath of a coup, the Security Council expressed deep concern at the grave events in the country in resolution 203 (1965), adopted on 14 May 1965. The Council called for a strict ceasefire and invited the Secretary-General to urgently send a representative to the Dominican Republic for the purpose of reporting to the Security Council on the situation. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. José Antonio Mayobre as his Representative. The mission concluded in September 1966, following the establishment of a new constitutional government.

Egypt

1 / United Nations Suez Canal Clearance Operation (UNSCO)

Mandate start: November 1956
Mandate end: May 1957
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolutions 997 (ES-I) and 1121 (XI)
Head of Mission: Retired Lieutenant-General Raymond A. Wheeler (United States)

On 2 November 1956, the General Assembly considered the situation in the Suez Canal and the hostilities in the area. It noted that traffic through the Suez Canal had been interrupted, causing serious prejudice to many nations. The Assembly urged that steps be taken to reopen the Canal. On 26 November 1956, the Secretary-General appointed retired Lieutenant-General Raymond A. Wheeler as his Special Representative and Director of Operations for the United Nations Suez Canal Clearance Operation (UNSCO). In his report on the clearance of the Suez Canal, the Secretary-General noted that a salvage fleet of 32 ships had been contracted for this work and had completed clearance operations in April 1957. UNSCO activities ended in May 1957.



Security Council Continues Consideration of Situation in Dominican Republic

Secretary-General U Thant (left) is seen addressing the Council. At the table with him are, from left: Mr. J.G. De Beus (Netherlands), President of the Council; Mr. Vladimir P. Suslov, Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs; and Dr. Nikolai T. Fedorenko (USSR). (18 June 1965)

El Salvador

1 / Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL)

Mandate start: February 1995
Mandate end: April 1996
Mandating bodies: General Assembly and Security Council
Mandate decision: General Assembly resolution 50/7 and exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1995/143) and the President of the Security Council (S/1995/144)
Head of Mission: Mr. Enrique ter Horst (Venezuela)

On 17 February 1995, in his letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General submitted a proposal for the establishment of a follow-on United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) in response to a formal request from the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN). The Secretary-General noted that a disquieting situation persisted, particularly regarding the implementation of agreements concerning land and other reintegration programmes (such as, for example, the Chapultepec Agreement). He also cited difficult issues related to human settlements, the judiciary, electoral reform and the binding recommendations of the Commission on the Truth. He further expressed his conviction that it was essential to put in place, following the disbandment of ONUSAL, a mechanism to continue the verification responsibilities and the good offices function that ONUSAL had carried out. The Secretary-General noted that it had become urgent to enable the United Nations to continue to discharge its responsibilities without interruption, as had been requested by the signatories to the peace agreement – the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN. He proposed the deployment of a small team of about eight professionals along with the support staff necessary to provide good offices, verify implementation of the outstanding points on the peace agreements, and provide a continuing flow of accurate and reliable information so that the Secretary-General could keep the Security Council informed as necessary.

On 17 February 1995, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that members of the Council welcomed his proposal. The Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL) was established on 30 April 1995 and carried out its mandate of good offices and verification of compliance with the peace accords in line with a programme of work signed by the parties on 27 April 1995. In resolution 50/7 of 31 October 1995, the General Assembly paid tribute to the accomplishments of MINUSAL and approved the proposal by the Secretary-General to extend its mandate for another six months. MINUSAL completed its mandate on 30 April 1996.

2 / United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador (UNOV)

Mandate start: May 1996
Mandate end: December 1996
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 50/226
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ricardo Vigil (Peru)

In a report to the General Assembly dated 23 April 1996, the Secretary-General noted that the public security situation in El Salvador and efforts by the Government to address it continued to raise concern. He also observed that recent developments suggested a reversal in the trend towards fulfilment of the binding recommendations of the Commission on the Truth, established by the peace agreements, in areas relating to judicial reform and strengthening the rule of law. Based on these considerations, the Secretary-General concluded that despite the substantial progress made while the Mission of the United Nations (MINUSAL) was operational as well as the reiterated will of the Government to comply fully with its commitments under the peace agreements, the verification responsibilities assumed by MINUSAL would not be completed by 30 April 1996, the day its mandate was scheduled to end.

The Secretary-General therefore proposed that the United Nations replace MINUSAL with a mechanism – the United Nations Office of Verification – that would combine regular visits by a high-level envoy from New York with the retention in the field of a small group of experts whose number would be strictly related to the technical requirements of following up implementation of pending agreements in El Salvador. These experts would continue to work with the Government and other parties to the peace agreements on matters of verification and good offices, support the Secretary-General's Envoy in his exercise of verification and good offices; and report directly to the Department of Political Affairs in New York. He noted the Organization's further good offices would be required in the public security sector; the process of constitutional and legislative reform; the land transfer programme; and the transfer of the rural human settlements.

In resolution 50/226 of 22 May 1996, the General Assembly recognized the political commitment of the Government of El Salvador and the other parties to the peace accords to continue to comply with their provisions. In accordance with the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General, the Assembly decided to establish the small, civilian United Nations Office of Verification to follow up implementation of pending aspects of the peace accords in El Salvador. The Office concluded its mandate in December 1996.

Equatorial Guinea

1 / United Nations Mission for the supervision of the referendum and the elections in Equatorial Guinea

Mandate start: August 1968
Mandate end: September 1968
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolutions 2230 (XXI) and 2355 (XXII)
Head of Mission: Mr. Adamou Mayaki (Niger)

The situation in Equatorial Guinea, which was administered by Spain and had been granted a regime of autonomy comprising executive and legislative institutions following a referendum in December 1963, was considered by the General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in June 1966. At the invitation of the Government of Spain, the Special Committee decided to send a sub-committee to the territory to ascertain the conditions there with a view to speeding up its independence process. One of the main recommendations of the Sub-Committee was that the administering power should convene a conference of all parties concerned to establish the modalities for the transfer of all powers to the people without delay and to fix a date for independence which, in response to the wishes of the people, should be not later than July 1968.[17]

In resolution 2230 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, the General Assembly approved the chapter of a report of the Special Committee on Decolonization relating to Equatorial Guinea. It reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Equatorial Guinea to self-determination and independence. It also noted the statement of the administering Power that a constitutional conference would be convened in early 1967. The resolution invited the administering Power to implement, as a matter of urgency, the following measures: a) the removal of all restrictions on political activities and the establishment of full democratic freedoms; b) the institution of an electoral system based on universal adult suffrage and the organization, prior to independence, of a general election for the entire Territory on the basis of a unified electoral roll; and c) the transfer of effective power to the government formed as a result of this election.

One year later, in resolution 2355 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, the General Assembly expressed regret that the administering Power had not yet set a date for the accession of Equatorial Guinea to independence, in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Territory. It reiterated its request to the administering Power to ensure that the Territory accede to independence as a single political and territorial entity no later than July 1968. It requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate action, in consultation with the administering Power and the Special Committee, to ensure the presence of the United Nations in the Territory for the supervision of the preparation and holding of the election, and to participate in all other measures leading towards the independence of the Territory. Accordingly, on 6 August 1968, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of a United Nations Mission for the Supervision of the Referendum and the Elections in Equatorial Guinea, consisting of representatives of Chile, Iran, Niger, Syria and Tanzania. The mission arrived in the Territory on 10 August 1968 and carried out its functions of supervision of the referendum on 11 August and the general elections on 22 and 29 September, completing its work on 30 September 1968. Equatorial Guinea formally achieved independence from Spain on 12 October 1968.

2 / Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to Equatorial Guinea

Mandate start: March 1969
Mandate end: April 1969
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Equatorial Guinea (S/9053) and exchange of letters between the President of the Security Council (S/9054) and the Secretary-General (S/9055)
Head of Mission: Mr. Marcial Tamayo (Bolivia)

In his cables to the Secretary-General on 27 and 28 February 1969, the President of Equatorial Guinea formally accused the Government of Spain of violating his country's sovereignty by mobilizing and deploying its armed forces in response to a request that the Embassy of Spain reduce its number of flags to conform with those of other accredited embassies.[18] On 7 March 1969, the Secretary-General informed the President of Equatorial Guinea that he had designated Mr. Marcial Tamayo as his Representative to Equatorial Guinea in order to help resolve difficulties that had arisen between Equatorial Guinea and Spain. On the same day, the Security Council took note of the communication with the President of Equatorial Guinea. The Personal Representative visited the country in March 1969 and met with the Government, the Ambassador and the Chargé d'affaires of Spain, as well as representatives sent by the Organization of African Unity.

The Secretary-General reported that representatives of both parties signed a document on 5 April certifying the complete withdrawal of all Spanish armed forces stationed in Equatorial Guinea and the simultaneous departure of all Spanish citizens who had expressed the wish to leave. He indicated that both operations had been carried out in an orderly and peaceful manner through the agency of Mr. Tamayo and members of his mission. The Secretary-General further reported that Mr. Tamayo had left Equatorial Guinea on 9 April, and members of the mission staff who had remained to finalize the work of the mission had left the country on 21 April.

17. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1966, pages 573-74.
18. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1969, p. 145.

Eritrea

1 / United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea

Mandate start: December 1950
Mandate end: October 1952
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 390 (V)
Head of Mission: Mr. Eduardo Anze Matienzo (Bolivia)

On 21 November 1949, the General Assembly adopted resolution 289 (IV) on the question of the disposal of the former Italian colonies. The resolution recalled annex XI, paragraph 3, of the 1947 Treaty of Peace with Italy, whereby the Powers concerned agreed to accept the recommendation of the General Assembly on the disposal of the former Italian colonies and to take appropriate measures to give effect to it.

In resolution 390(V) of 2 December 1950, the General Assembly first took into consideration: a) the wishes and welfare of the inhabitants of Eritrea, including the views of the various racial, religious and political groups of the provinces of the Territory and the capacity of the people for self-government; b) the interests of peace and security in East Africa; and c) the rights and claims of Ethiopia based on geographical, historical, ethnic or economic reasons, including the country's legitimate need for adequate access to the sea. It then decided that Eritrea would constitute an autonomous unit federated with Ethiopia under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian Crown. The Assembly also appointed a United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea. It authorized the Secretary-General to provide the Commissioner with the necessary experts, staff and facilities to implement the resolution.

In a secret ballot held on 14 December 1950, the General Assembly elected Mr. Eduardo Anze Matienzo to the office of United Nations Commissioner in Eritrea. As detailed in his report, the Commissioner held consultations with the Administering Authority, the Government of Ethiopia and the inhabitants of Eritrea; took the lead in preparing a draft of the Eritrean Constitution, which he submitted to the Eritrean Assembly in May 1952; provided advice and assistance to the Eritrean Assembly in its consideration of the draft Constitution; and, following its adoption by the Eritrean Assembly, approved the Constitution. In addition to submitting reports to the General Assembly on the results of his work, the Commissioner also shared the text of the Eritrean Constitution in October 1952.

2 / United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER)

Mandate start: December 1992
Mandate end: April 1993
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 47/114
Head of Mission: Mr. Samir Sanbar (Lebanon)

In a letter dated 13 December 1991[19], Mr. Meles Zenawi, the President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, informed the Secretary-General that his government had formally recognized the Eritrean people's right to self-determination and that the future status of Eritrea should be decided by its people through a referendum conducted with international observers. He also affirmed that both the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and the Provisional Government of Eritrea were committed to respecting the referendum's outcome as the genuine expression of the people's will. In his letter dated 19 May 1992, the Commissioner of Eritrea invited the Secretary-General to send a delegation of the United Nations to observe and to verify the freeness, fairness and impartiality of the entire referendum process. In resolution 47/114, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER), which was deployed on 7 January 1993.

The referendum on Eritrean independence from Ethiopia was held on 23 to 25 April 1993. Electoral teams from the three regional UNOVER offices – based in Asmara, Keren and Mendefera – made visits to polling station sites in their respective regions of responsibility. The results showed that 99.8 per cent of Eritreans who participated in the referendum voted for independence.[20] In two large-scale operations, UNOVER also observed polling sites serving eligible voters in Ethiopia and the Sudan.[21]

19. *The United Nations and the Independence of Eritrea*, p. 154.
20. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1993, p. 265.
21. *Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea*, A/48/283, p. 14.

Fiji

1 / United Nations Electoral Observation Mission for the general elections in Fiji (UNFEOM)

Mandate start: July 2001
Mandate end: September 2001
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 55/280

In a letter dated 13 July 2001, the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the Caretaker Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands had decided to hold general elections from 25 August to 1 September 2001. He requested that the United Nations provide assistance to help ensure just and orderly elections. Noting this request in resolution 55/280 of 25 July 2001, the General Assembly authorized the establishment of the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission to monitor the general elections in Fiji and the immediate post-election environment.

As the Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs undertook the design, organization and implementation of the Observer Mission. The core team arrived in Suva by mid-August and 40 international observers from 18 countries were deployed across the Fiji Islands. During the elections, mission teams visited approximately 95 per cent of the 818 polling stations. Based on observer reports, statistical analysis and broad consultations with representatives of Fijian society, the Secretary-General concluded that the elections were conducted in a credible manner and that the results reflected the will of the people of Fiji while making further suggestions to the authorities of Fiji to consider for the future.

Geneva International Discussions

1 / United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions

Mandate start: November 2009
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1866 (2009), exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2010/103) and the President of the Security Council (S/2011/279)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Antti Turunen (Finland)

Following the non-extension of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia in June 2009, the United Nations continued to support international discussions on security and stability in Georgia, as well as the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. These discussions started in 2008, as part of the six-point agreement of 12 August 2008, which provided for the convening of international discussions on lasting stability arrangements for Abkhazia and South Ossetia.[22]

Based in Geneva, the discussions are co-chaired by the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations. The United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions serves as a co-chair of the discussions and works in consultation with the other co-chairs to prepare and facilitate the discussions. The mission is also responsible for preparing, convening and facilitating the periodic meetings of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) for Abkhazia.

22. *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, Supplement 2008-2009*, p. 131.

Georgia

1 / Special Envoy to Georgia

Mandate start: May 1993
Mandate end: April 1997
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/25756) and the President of the Security Council (S/25757)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Edouard Brunner (Switzerland)

On 28 January 1993, in his report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General noted that the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, was seriously deteriorating, with continued violations of a 1992 agreement signed by the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation, as well as a growing risk to regional stability. Emphasizing the urgency of renewed international engagement, he proposed dispatching a high-level mission to Georgia to review the situation on the ground, assess the political and security developments, and advise on practical measures such as the establishment and monitoring of a ceasefire, particularly along the border between Abkhazia and the Russian Federation. The mission would also address the protection of critical infrastructure, including railway and communication links, and ensure effective coordination between United Nations efforts and those of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), in order to foster a coherent and complementary approach to conflict resolution in the region.



Secretary-General Meets with His Special Envoy for Georgia

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (second from right) meets with Mr. Edouard Brunner (right), his Special Envoy for Georgia. Second from left is Mr. Ismat Kittani, Senior Advisor of the Secretary-General. (19 March 1996)

In its In the note of 29 January 1993 by the President of the Security Council, the Security Council expressed grave concern regarding the further deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia and called on all parties to immediately cease the fighting and to observe and implement faithfully the terms of the 1992 agreement. It endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General to send a new mission to Georgia to review the situation in Abkhazia and stressed the need to ensure effective coordination between the activities of the United Nations and those of the CSCE. On 11 May 1993, the Secretary-General informed the Council that he had appointed Mr. Edouard Brunner as his Special Envoy to Georgia to secure a ceasefire, assist parties in reviving the peace process and enlist the support of neighbouring countries to that end. The Special Envoy held discussions with parties to the conflict, Russian officials, as well as representatives of the CSCE (renamed as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in January 1995). He visited the region a number of times and chaired several rounds of negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides on the political status of Abkhazia. The Special Envoy assisted the Government of Georgia and the Abkhaz leadership in Abkhazia, Georgia, to explore and find compromise solutions to their key differences, with the aim of arriving at a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. His efforts facilitated the establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), a peacekeeping mission deployed from August 1993 to June 2009.

Great Lakes

1 / International Commission of Inquiry in Rwanda

Mandate start: September 1995
Mandate end: November 1998
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1013 (1995)
Head of Mission: Mr. Mahmoud Kassem (Egypt)

In the aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda, in a report dated 8 August 1995, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, during his visit to the Great Lakes region, leaders in the subregion widely recognized the need for cooperative efforts to prevent destabilizing influences, such as armed infiltrations, acts of sabotage, embargo violations, and illegal arms acquisitions. He noted that these leaders expressed strong interest in establishing an international commission under United Nations auspices to investigate allegations of arms flows to former Rwandan government forces in the Great Lakes region. The Security Council took note of the report in resolution 1011 (1995) of 16 August 1995 and requested that the Secretary-General make recommendations on the establishment of such a commission.

On 25 August 1995, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General proposed a commission with the tasks of: collecting information and investigating reports relating to the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to former Rwandese government forces; attempting to identify parties that aided or abetted the illegal acquisition of arms; and recommending measures to curb the illegal flows. In resolution 1013 (1995) of 7 September 1995, the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General establish an International Commission of Inquiry. On 16 October 1995, the Secretary-General informed the Council that arrangements had been completed. The Commission consisted of six members, chaired by Ambassador Mahmoud Kassem of Egypt. While the Commission was able to submit its reports, widespread violence in the eastern region of the former Zaire in October 1996 caused the suspension of follow-up to the work of the Commission.

In resolution 1161 (1998) of 9 April 1998, the Security Council recognized the need for a renewed investigation into the illegal flow of arms in Rwanda, which was fueling violence and could lead to further acts of genocide. The Council requested that the Secretary-General reactivate the Commission, a step he confirmed having taken in a letter dated 27 May 1998. The Commission submitted, via the Secretary-General, its final report to the Security Council on 18 November 1998. The report confirmed that former Rwandan government forces and Interahamwe militias had continued to receive arms and ammunition mainly from other armed groups in Angola, Burundi and Uganda, as well as from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Commission underlined that the embargoes imposed by the Security Council lacked effectiveness due to the close relationship between the former Rwandan government forces, Interahamwe, the DRC and its allies, and the Governments of Angola, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe.[23]

2 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region

Mandate start: November 1996
Mandate end: December 1996
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1996/888) and the President of the Security Council (S/1996/889)
Head of Mission: Mr. Raymond Chrétien (Canada)

On 29 October 1996, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General expressed deep concern over the rapidly deteriorating situation in eastern Zaire and the broader Great Lakes region, noting that the crisis posed a serious threat to regional peace and security and risked further destabilization. In the light of these developments and the urgent need for a coordinated political response to complement ongoing humanitarian efforts, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Raymond Chrétien of Canada as his Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, while taking steps to appoint as soon as possible a Special Representative based in the region.

The Special Envoy's tasks included: consulting with all concerned to establish the facts relating to ongoing conflicts and develop urgent plans for defusing the tension and establishing a ceasefire and a process of negotiations; exploring possibilities for the early convening of a regional conference; and presenting the Secretary-General with advice on the mandate to be given to his Special Representative and on the size and structure of the United Nations political presence to be established in the Great Lakes region.



Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Meets the Press

Ambassador Raymond Chretien (left front with microphone), of Canada, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, meets with the press at UN Headquarters. (31 October 1996)

23. *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, Supplement 1996–1999, ch. 5, pp. 161–162.

On 12 December 1996, the Secretary-General submitted the report of the Special Envoy, whose assignment ran from 5 November to 4 December 1996, as an attachment to his letter to the Security Council. The Special Envoy noted that while the immediate humanitarian crisis may have eased somewhat, the underlying political and military causes of instability in the region had yet to be addressed. Against the background of a deteriorating situation on the ground, he added that the leaders whose views he had solicited believed that the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General would have a salutary effect. The joint United Nations–Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region was appointed in January 1997.

3 / United Nations–Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region

Mandate start: January 1997
Mandate end: December 1997
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1997/73) and the President of the Security Council (S/1997/74)
Head of Mission: Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun (Algeria)

On 22 January 1997, in his letter to the Security Council, the Secretary-General expressed concern over the continuing serious political and humanitarian situation in eastern Zaire and the Great Lakes region. He noted that these circumstances required intensified political engagement and, having consulted with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Chair of the OAU, he proposed appointing Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun of Algeria as Joint Special Representative with the OAU. In addition to reporting to and taking guidance from both Secretaries-General, the tasks of the Special Representative included: using his good offices to promote peaceful settlements of the various conflicts in the region, initially with special reference to the situations in eastern Zaire and Burundi; preparing an international conference on peace, security and development in the region, as endorsed by the Security Council; and using his good offices to help preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Zaire and to help restore that country's national institutions, including through support for the electoral process. The Special Representative was involved in international efforts to cope with the unfolding crisis in eastern Zaire. The rebellion that began there culminated in the capture of Kinshasa and the establishment of a new Government, which renamed the country the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also worked to support peacemaking in the Republic of the Congo and in Burundi.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 19 December 1997, the Secretary-General highlighted the need to adjust the United Nations political presence in the region to the new environment brought about by the momentous changes that had taken place since the beginning of the year, which included the resumption of war in June 1997. He therefore sought the Council's concurrence with a new mandate for Mohammed Sahnoun as his Special Envoy in Africa, as well as for the establishment of a new political and humanitarian presence for the United Nations in the Great Lakes region, with a particular focus on Burundi, which became the Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. On the same day, the Security Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal for a new mandate for the Secretary-General's Special Envoy in Africa, who would continue to follow closely developments in Central Africa, lend his support to peacemaking and peace-building initiatives in the Great Lakes region and give special attention to Burundi.[24]

4 / Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

Mandate start: December 1997
Mandate end: March 2007
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1997/994) and the President of the Security Council (S/1997/995)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Berhanu Dinka (Ethiopia)

Referring to the need to adjust the United Nations political presence in the Great Lakes region, including Central Africa, in view of momentous changes that took place in the region as of 1997, including the resumption of war in June 1997, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Berhanu Dinka of Ethiopia as his Representative and Regional Humanitarian Adviser for the Great Lakes Region. The Representative's mandate included monitoring developments and their implications for peace and regional security; contributing to regional efforts in the prevention or peaceful settlement of conflicts; and overseeing the political activities of the United Nations in Burundi and supporting ongoing political initiatives for that country. In resolution 1653 (2006), the Security Council encouraged the countries of the region, in partnership with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and other stakeholders, to finalize the preparations for a peace and security summit, with a view to adopting an agreement focused on security and development for the Great Lakes countries. In his reply dated 4 October 2006, the Secretary-General noted his intention to extend the mandate of the Office of his Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region until 31 December 2006 to allow for the summit to be held in mid-December. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 13 October 2006, the President of the Security Council took note of the intention.

24. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1997, p.83.

On 20 December 2006, in a presidential statement, the Security Council congratulated regional leaders on the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region and welcomed the decision to establish a Regional Follow-up Mechanism, which would include a Conference Secretariat. The Council also supported the extension of the mandate of the Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region for a final period through 31 March 2007, with a view to ensuring regional ownership of the follow-up mechanism and completing successfully the transition to the Conference Secretariat.[25]

5 / Office of the Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army-Affected Areas

Mandate start: December 2007
Mandate end: June 2009
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: a letter from the Secretary-General (S/2006/930) and an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2007/719) and the President of the Security Council (S/2007/720)
Head of Mission: Mr. Joaquim Chissano (Mozambique)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council on 30 November 2006, the Secretary-General recalled the death and abduction of thousands of civilians, displacement of more than 1.5 million people in northern Uganda and severe disruption of humanitarian operations in southern Sudan caused over the two decades of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency. Noting that the LRA presence and activity represented a serious security threat for the civilian population and the region, he further informed the Council that, pursuant to the resolutions 1653 (2006) and 1663 (2006), he decided to offer his good offices to the countries of the region and appointed Mr. Joaquim Chissano as his Special Envoy for the LRA-affected areas.

In carrying out the Secretary-General's good offices initiative, the Special Envoy was tasked with facilitating the search for a comprehensive political solution to address the root causes of the conflict in northern Uganda and the implications of LRA activities in the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, southern Sudan and northern Uganda. He also helped to develop a cohesive and forward-looking policy approach among external actors. In December 2007, through an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, the Special Envoy's office was upgraded to a special political mission to facilitate and complete the peace talks. On 1 June 2009, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council that his Special Envoy had achieved the main objectives of the mandate given to him in December 2006. Under his facilitation and the mediation of the Government of Southern Sudan, the delegation of the Government of Uganda and the LRA representatives to the Juba peace talks successfully concluded their negotiations with the signing of agreements on all substantive agenda items by March 2008, leaving the onus on the LRA leader to honour his commitments to sign the final agreement.

On 26 May 2009, in his letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General expressed regret that efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement with the LRA had not produced a signed agreement and that the security situation in the affected areas had deteriorated, with the LRA resuming violent attacks. In view of the lack of progress and the changing circumstances on the ground, the Secretary-General informed the Council of his decision to suspend, as of 30 June 2009, the assignment of Mr. Joaquim Chissano as his Special Envoy for the LRA-affected areas.

6 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

Mandate start: March 2013
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2013/166) and the President of the Security Council (S/2013/167), and resolution 2098 (2013)
First Head of Mission: Ms. Mary Robinson (Ireland)

In resolution 2076 (2012) of 20 November 2012, the Security Council expressed strong condemnation of the resumption of attacks on the same day by the March 23 Movement (Mouvement du 23 Mars, M23) and the entry of the M23 into the city of Goma, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It requested that the Secretary-General report to the Council on options for high-level dialogue between relevant parties to address the causes underlying the political, security and humanitarian crises in the region, including the possibility of designating a special envoy. On 18 March 2013, further to the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region on 24 February 2013, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had decided to appoint Ms. Mary Robinson as his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region. The Special Envoy's initial mandate was set out in Security Council resolution 2098 (2013) of 28 March, which called on her to lead, coordinate and assess the implementation of national and regional commitments under the PSC Framework, including through the swift establishment of benchmarks and appropriate follow-up measures. The resolution encouraged the Special Envoy to lead a comprehensive, inclusive political process to address the root causes of the conflict.

25. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 2007, pp. 113–114

Guatemala

1 / United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA)

Mission name change: United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (January 1997)

Mandate start: September 1994
Mandate end: December 2004
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 48/267
First Head of Mission: Mr. Leonardo Franco (Argentina)

In a letter dated 19 January 1994, the Secretary-General informed the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council that on 10 January 1994, in the presence of a United Nations observer, the parties to the Guatemalan conflict had signed the Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca. He also noted that the parties had asked him to appoint a Moderator of the bilateral talks and to agree to request United Nations verification of all agreements reached. In his report to the General Assembly dated 18 August 1994, the Secretary-General emphasized the need for international support for the parties and Guatemalan society in their efforts to achieve peace, uphold the rule of law and promote a democratic culture. He recommended that the General Assembly authorize the establishment of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala.

In resolution 48/267, dated 19 September 1994, the General Assembly welcomed the resumption of negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General and the signing of the Framework Agreement. Acknowledging the parties' request for United Nations verification of all agreements, it established the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), a special political mission, initially with a mandate to monitor compliance with the commitments of the 29 March 1994 Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala.

On 20 January 1997, the Security Council decided, in resolution 1094 (1997), to attach to MINUGUA a group of 155 military observers and requisite medical personnel for a three-month period. Although the expanded mission continued to be known as MINUGUA, its official name was changed to the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala to reflect the new mandate. Following the repatriation of the MINUGUA military observers in May 1997, MINUGUA continued its civilian activities as a special political mission, with good offices, verification and institution-building engagement in support of the peace process and implementation of the peace agreements in Guatemala, and its mandate was regularly renewed by the General Assembly until 2004. In anticipation of its departure at the end of 2004, MINUGUA made its two-year phase-down of operations and carried out a transition strategy designed to build national capacity to promote the goals of the peace accords. The formal public closure of the Mission took place on 15 November 2004, with the mandate formally concluded in December 2004.[26]

26. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 2004, p. 286.

Guinea-Bissau

1 / United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS)

Mandate start: March 1999
Mandate end: January 2010
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1999/232) and the President of the Security Council (S/1999/233)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Samel C. Nana-Sinkam (Cameroon)

In resolution 1216 (1998) of 21 December 1998, the Security Council expressed grave concern over the crisis in Guinea-Bissau and the serious humanitarian situation affecting the local civilian population. It welcomed the agreements between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta, signed in Praia, Cape Verde, on 26 August 1998 and in Abuja, Nigeria, on 1 November 1998, as well as the Additional Protocol signed in Lomé, Togo, on 15 December 1998. It requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the Council on a possible role for the United Nations in the process of peace and reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau, including the early establishment of arrangements for liaison between the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

Further to this request, in his letter to the Council dated 3 March 1999, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), with a mandate to: help create an enabling environment for restoring and consolidating peace, democracy and the rule of law and for the organization of free and transparent elections; work with the Government of National Unity, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and ECOMOG, as well as other national and international partners, to facilitate the implementation of the Abuja Agreement; seek the commitment of the Government and other parties to adopt a programme of voluntary arms collection, disposal and destruction; and provide the political framework and leadership for harmonizing and integrating the activities of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau, particularly during the transitional period leading up to general and presidential elections. UNOGBIS was replaced by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) on 1 January 2010.

2 / United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office for Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)

Mandate start: January 2010
Mandate end: December 2020
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1876 (2009)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Joseph Mutaboba (Rwanda)

On 26 June 2009, the Security Council adopted resolution 1876 (2009) expressing its deep concern over the resurgence of political violence in Guinea-Bissau, particularly political assassinations. It stressed that such developments highlighted the fragility of the political situation and jeopardized efforts to restore peace, stability and the rule of law. The Council also encouraged the Government to continue its close engagement with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission to accelerate the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau. It extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) until December 2009. In the same resolution, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) to succeed UNOGBIS from January 2010.

UNIOGBIS was mandated with assisting the Peacebuilding Commission in addressing critical peacebuilding needs in Guinea-Bissau; strengthening the capacities of national institutions in order to maintain constitutional order, public security and full respect for the rule of law; supporting national authorities to establish effective and efficient police, law enforcement and criminal justice systems; supporting an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process; supporting national efforts to implement security sector reform; assisting national authorities in combating drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking, especially child trafficking; supporting national efforts to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; promoting human rights, protection and monitoring; supporting the institutionalization of the rule of law; mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding; enhancing cooperation with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the European Union and other partners to contribute to the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau; and helping in the mobilization of international assistance. UNIOGBIS completed its mandate on 31 December 2020.

Haiti

1 / United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH)

Mandate start: October 1990
Mandate end: January 1991
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 45/2
Head of Mission: Mr. João de Médicis (Brazil)

In resolution 45/2 of 10 October 1990, the General Assembly took note of letters dated 23 June 1990 and 9 August 1990 from the President of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Haiti to the Secretary-General, in which the former asked the United Nations to facilitate the peaceful, efficient development of the country's electoral process. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with regional organizations and Member States, to provide the broadest possible support to the Government of Haiti in meeting the requests for: observers, who would arrive in Haiti prior to voter registration and leave only after the elections; reinforcement of this group at the time of elections and voter registration; provision of advisers to the committee charged with coordinating election security; observation of the implementation of the electoral security plans. The mission observed the elections held on 16 December 1990, and the Secretary-General submitted its final report to the General Assembly on 22 February 1991, whereby he conveyed that ONUVEH had fulfilled the task attributed to it by resolution 45/2 and had successfully assisted the people of Haiti to elect a Government of their own choice.



With International Support, Haitians Go to the Polls

On 16 December 1990, for the first time in their history, the people of Haiti chose a president by means of a peaceful, democratic election. Assisting them in that process was the United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH), drawing on experience with the Namibian elections earlier in the year, and with the added innovation of UN Security Observers. Approximately 70 percent of those registered voted, choosing as their leader the Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide. ONUVEH chief Joao Augusto de Medicis (right) watches election workers assemble ballot boxes. (16 December 1990)

2 / International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) jointly deployed by the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Mandate start: April 1993
Mandate end: March 2000
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolutions 47/20 and 47/20 B
First Head of Mission: Mr. Colin Terrence Granderson (Trinidad and Tobago)

In resolution 46/7 of 11 October 1991, the General Assembly expressed concern about the critical events occurring in Haiti since 29 September 1991, which had brought about a sudden and violent interruption of the democratic process in the country, entailing human rights abuses and the loss of human lives. The Assembly strongly condemned the attempted illegal replacement of the constitutional President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, affirmed as unacceptable any entity resulting from that illegal situation and demanded the immediate restoration of the legitimate Government, together with the full application of the National Constitution and the full observance of human rights. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General consider providing support sought by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing resolutions adopted by OAS Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

In a letter to the Security Council dated 15 July 1992, the Secretary-General cited correspondence in which the President of Haiti expressed hope that the United Nations would assist the OAS in achieving effective implementations of the OAS resolutions. The Secretary-General also informed the Council that he had brought the President's message to the attention of the OAS Secretary-General, who, at the request of the Foreign Ministers of OAS member States, was taking a leading role in efforts to restore democracy to Haiti. The Secretary-General further noted that he had decided to accept the offer of the OAS Secretary-General to include United Nations participation in an OAS-proposed mission to Haiti.

On 24 November 1992, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/20, in which it asked the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to assist, in cooperation with the OAS, in resolving the Haitian crisis. In his report to the General Assembly of 24 March 1993, the Secretary-General included his recommendations for United Nations participation, jointly with the OAS, in the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, with the initial task of verifying compliance with Haiti's international human rights obligations. On 20 April, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/20B, authorizing the deployment without delay of the United Nations participation in the International Civilian Mission to Haiti. The United Nations



International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH)

International Civilian Mission observers talking with Haitian prisoners about their cases. (6 May 1997)

component of MICIVIH was authorized with the initial task of verifying compliance with Haiti's international human rights obligations, with a view to making recommendations thereon, in order to assist in the establishment of a climate of freedom and tolerance propitious to the re-establishment of democracy in Haiti.[27]

In mid-October 1993, for security reasons, mission staff were evacuated to the Dominican Republic following the prevention of the United Nations Mission in Haiti[28] (UNMIH)'s emplacement, amidst the two missions and President Aristide's return. A small contingent returned to Haiti in January 1994. In July 1994, Haiti's de facto regime and military leadership expelled the mission from the country. The de facto regime resigned from power on 14 October 1994 following the deployment of a Multinational Force authorization by the Security Council in resolution 940 (1994). Mr. Aristide returned from exile and resumed the office of the presidency on 15 October 1994. MICIVIH was re-established in Haiti on 26 October 1994, with an expanded mandate that included democratic institution-building, civic education, assisting with the repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons, and providing medical assistance to victims of human rights abuses. The mission's mandate expired in March 2000.[29]

3 / International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH)

Mandate start: December 1999
Mandate end: February 2001
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 54/193
Head of Mission: Mr. Alfredo Lopes Cabral (Guinea-Bissau)

Referring to the imminent expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH), President René Préval of Haiti requested that the Secretary-General establish an institutional support mission that would be neither uniformed nor armed, with the aim of supporting the democratization process and assisting the Government of Haiti in strengthening the judiciary and professionalizing the Haitian National Police. In his letter to the General Assembly dated 22 November 1999, the Secretary-General conveyed the request of the President, recalled that he had underlined the need to continue to assist the Haitian people in his reports to the General Assembly and the Security Council, and proposed the establishment of a successor mission in Haiti.

On 17 December 1999, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/193, deciding, at the request of the President of Haiti, to establish the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) to consolidate the results achieved by the Joint UN-OAS International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), MIPONUH and previous United Nations missions. MICAH was tasked with supporting the democratization process and assisting the Haitian authorities with the development of democratic institutions; helping authorities of Haiti in reforming and strengthening the system of justice; supporting the efforts of the Government of Haiti to professionalize the Haitian National Police; promoting efforts of the Government of Haiti aimed at the full observance of human rights; and providing technical assistance for the organization of democratic elections.

In his report to the Security Council of 19 April 2001, the Secretary-General noted that due to the delays in obtaining the necessary voluntary contributions, lengthy procedures for recruiting advisers, cumbersome administrative procedures for expenditures, and the lack of a budget for hiring support personnel, the majority of MICAH's programmes were compressed into a few short months and the Mission was never fully deployed. MICAH's ability to be effective was also limited by a difficult and tense political context. The Mission was closed at the end of its mandate on 6 February 2001.

27. *General Assembly resolution* 47/20 B of 23 April 1993.
28. The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was a peacekeeping operation established by Security Council resolutions 862 (1993) and 867 (1993) of 23 September 1993. The mission concluded its mandate in June 1996.
29. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 2000, p. 249.

4 / Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Haiti

Mandate start: February 2004
Mandate end: August 2004
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (A/58/722-E/2004/13, S/2004/161) and the President of the Security Council (S/2004/162)
Head of Mission: Mr. John Reginald Dumas (Trinidad and Tobago)

In February 2004, in response to the deteriorating situation in Haiti, the Secretary-General informed the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council of his decision to appoint Mr. John Reginald Dumas of Trinidad and Tobago as his Special Adviser on Haiti. The Special Adviser was tasked with closely monitoring developments in Haiti and liaising with relevant actors, particularly regional organizations, to examine ways in which the United Nations could enhance contributions to the alleviation of the political, economic and social crises in the country. The Special Adviser held meetings with representatives of the Government, political parties, women's organizations and the Organization of American States (OAS). His engagement also facilitated rapprochements between the Transitional Government and the opposition political parties.[30] On 30 April 2004, the Security Council adopted resolution 1542 (2004) and decided to establish the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), a peacekeeping operation.

5 / United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)

Mandate start: October 2019
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2476 (2019)
First Head of Mission: Ms. Helen La Lime (United States)

In his report on the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), a peacekeeping operation, submitted to the Security Council on 1 March 2019, the Secretary-General noted the risks of renewed instability arising from the political, security, human rights, economic and humanitarian challenges to be considered in assessing the timeframe for the conclusion of the peacekeeping operation and the preferred post-peacekeeping presence in Haiti. He proposed the establishment of a special political mission to complement the more technical and longer-term development-focused role of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Haiti.

On 25 June 2019, following the completion of the mandate of MINUJUSTH, the Security Council adopted resolution 2476 (2019), in which it recalled its previous decision to extend the MINUJUSTH mandate for a final period until 15 October 2019. It welcomed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to establish a special political mission to succeed MINUJUSTH as of 16 October 2019. The Council mandated the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) to advise the Government of Haiti in promoting and strengthening political stability and good governance, including the rule of law; preserving and advancing a peaceful and stable environment, including by supporting an inclusive inter-Haitian national dialogue; planning and executing free, fair and transparent elections; and protecting and promoting human rights.

6 / Panel of Experts on Haiti

Mandate start: October 2022
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2653 (2022)

In resolution 2653 (2022) of 21 October 2022, the Security Council expressed deep concern over the protracted and deteriorating political, institutional, economic, security, human rights and humanitarian crises in Haiti, as well as the alarming levels of gang violence and other criminal activities. It called attention to the prevalence of kidnappings, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, homicides, and sexual and gender-based violence, including rape and sexual slavery, which had eroded the rule of law, undermined human rights, obstructed humanitarian assistance, and exacerbated humanitarian and socioeconomic challenges. The Council decided to impose an asset freeze, a travel ban and a targeted arms embargo against individuals designated by the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 2653 (2022).

The Council requested that the Secretary-General create a Panel of Experts to assist the Sanctions Committee in monitoring the implementation of the sanction measures, particularly those focusing on individuals and entities engaged in or supporting gang violence and criminal activities. The Panel works closely with United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and other United Nations entities to support the implementation of sanctions measures. Through resolution 2699 (2023), the Security Council replaced the targeted arms embargo with a territorial arms embargo. In resolution 2794 (2025), the Council renewed the Panel's mandate until 17 November 2026.

30. *Report of the Secretary-General on Haiti*, S/2004/300, p. 1; *Interim report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti*, S/2004/698, p. 7.

Horn of Africa

1 / Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa

Mandate start: October 2018
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2018/955) and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/979)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga (Gabon)



Security Council Meets on Sudan, South Sudan and Situation in Abyei

A wide view of the Security Council meeting on the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council heard a Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei. On the screen is Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa. (6 November 2023)

The establishment of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa (OSE-HoA) in 2018 was primarily driven by dynamic changes in the region, which triggered a series of positive developments, including the rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, renewed diplomatic relations between Eritrea and Somalia, as well as between Eritrea and Djibouti, and the signing of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). The mandate of OSE-HoA originated in an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, during which the remit of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan was extended to encompass the entire Horn of Africa region. In accordance with the letters, the mission continues to perform the functions previously undertaken by the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, established pursuant to an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in 2011. These functions are related to the maintenance of good and peaceful neighbourly relations between Sudan and South Sudan.

The overall objectives of the OSE-HoA are to: a) assist and work closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union and other relevant organizations in consolidating recent gains in peace and security in the Horn of Africa region and enhance subregional capacities to address cross-border and cross-cutting issues; b) carry out good offices roles and special assignments on behalf of the Secretary-General, in cooperation with IGAD and other regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, and enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation; c) continue to contribute to peaceful, neighbourly relations between Sudan and South Sudan, including by supporting the work of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP); and d) continue to support peace and stability in Sudan and South Sudan, including by engaging on the implementation of the R-ARCSS. Furthermore, the Special Envoy provides advice to the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials on matters related to peace and security in the Horn of Africa; enhances linkages, coordination and information-sharing in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the region, with the goal of encouraging a joined-up approach to matters of common concern; and coordinates the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention and Integration Strategy for the Horn of Africa. The Strategy includes enhancing collaboration among the United Nations and other partners in the Horn of Africa region to promote a cohesive regional approach, which involves facilitating coordination and information exchange within the United Nations system.

India and Pakistan

1 / United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP)

Mandate start: June 1948
Mandate end: March 1950
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolutions 39 (1948), 47(1948) and 51 (1948)
Head of Mission: Mr. Josef Korbel (Czechoslovakia)

In adopting resolution 39 (1948) on 20 January 1948, the Security Council considered that Article 34 of Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter empowered it to investigate any dispute or situation whose continuation could endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. Recognizing that such an investigation was urgently required with respect to relations between India and Pakistan, the Council established the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate the countries' dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Council mandated UNCIP to carry out its functions in accordance with Article 34; to exercise any mediatory influence likely to smooth away difficulties; to follow any directions provided by the Security Council; and to report back to the Council. UNCIP consisted of representatives from Member States appointed by the Security Council, was chaired by Mr. Josef Korbel, and included Mr. Alfredo Lozano of Colombia, Mr. Carlos Alberto Leguizamon of Argentina, Mr. Harry Graeffe of Belgium and Mr. J. Klahr Huddle of the United States.[31] The Commission began its work in July 1948 and continued its mission until its dissolution on 14 March 1950, following Security Council resolution 80 (1950).

2 / United Nations Representative for India and Pakistan (UNRIP)

Mandate start: March 1950
Mandate end: February 1972
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 80 (1950)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Owen Dixon (Australia)

In resolution 80 (1950) of 14 March 1950, the Security Council addressed the dispute between India and Pakistan over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, commending both Governments for their adherence to a ceasefire and their efforts towards demilitarization in the region. It underscored that the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir should be determined in accordance with the will of the people through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite. The Council decided to appoint a United Nations Representative to assume all the responsibilities previously held by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), which was to be terminated (see above). One month later, on 12 April 1950, the Council appointed Mr. Owen Dixon as the United Nations Representative for India and Pakistan (UNRIP). The Council mandated the Representative to assist in the preparation and to supervise the implementation of the demilitarization programme; interpret the agreements reached by the parties for demilitarization; and support India and Pakistan in seeking solutions to the dispute concerning the State of Jammu and Kashmir.



Sir Owen Dixon Meets Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (left), Prime Minister of Pakistan, photographed with Sir Owen Dixon (center), United Nations Representative for India and Pakistan, and Mr. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (right), Prime Minister of India, at a meeting held at Government House, in New Delhi, on July 20, 1950.

3 / Representative of the Secretary-General in the matter of withdrawal of troops by India and Pakistan

Mandate start: November 1965
Mandate end: February 1966
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 215 (1965)
Head of Mission: Mr. Tulio Marambio (Chile)

In resolution 215 (1965) of 5 November 1965, the Security Council expressed grave concern that the ceasefire agreed to unconditionally by the Governments of India and Pakistan was not holding; requested that the two Governments cooperate towards a full implementation of paragraph 1 of resolution 211 (1965), which demanded compliance with the ceasefire as of 22 September 1965; called upon the Governments to instruct their armed personnel to cooperate with the United Nations and cease all military activity; and insisted that there be an end to violations of the ceasefire. It demanded the prompt and unconditional execution of the proposal already agreed to in principle by the Governments of India and Pakistan that their representatives meet with a suitable representative of the Secretary-General, to be appointed without delay after consultation with both parties, for the purpose of formulating an agreed plan and schedule for troop withdrawal by both parties. Brigadier-General Tulio Marambio was appointed Representative of the Secretary-General in the matter of troop withdrawal, which was completed on 25 February 1966. The position of the Representative was terminated on 28 February 1966.[32]

31. *UN Photo: Members of the Commission for India and Pakistan*, UN7703350, 1 January 1949.
32. *Yearbook of the United Nations 1965*, pp. 171-172 and *Yearbook of the United Nations 1966*, p.166.

Indonesia and the Netherlands

1 / United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) of West New Guinea (West Irian)

Mandate start: October 1962
Mandate end: April 1963
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 1752 (XVII)
Head of Mission: Mr. José Rolz-Bennett (Guatemala)

The General Assembly considered the dispute between Indonesia and the Netherlands regarding the territory of West New Guinea (West Irian) at its ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and sixteenth sessions. On 15 August 1962, the Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian) was signed at United Nations Headquarters. The Agreement was reached with the assistance of Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who, at the request of the Acting Secretary-General, had been serving as a mediator. In the Agreement, the two Governments asked the Acting Secretary-General to undertake certain functions to give the earliest possible effect to the cessation of hostilities.[33] In response, the General Assembly, through resolution 1752 (XVII) of 21 September 1962, took note of the Agreement, acknowledged the role conferred upon the Secretary-General and authorized him to carry out the tasks entrusted to him in the Agreement.

In accordance with Article III of the Agreement, the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) was established in October 1962 to oversee the transfer of West New Guinea (West Irian) from Dutch to Indonesian administration. Under the jurisdiction of the Secretary-General, UNTEA had full authority after 1 October 1962 to administer the Territory of West New Guinea (West Irian), maintain law and order, protect the rights of the inhabitants and ensure uninterrupted, normal services until the administration of the Territory was transferred to the Government of Indonesia. UNTEA was the first Cold War-era mission in which the United Nations directly administered a territory.

The Secretary-General appointed his Deputy Chef de Cabinet, Mr. José Rolz-Bennett, as his Representative in West New Guinea (West Irian) to make arrangements for the transfer of administration to UNTEA, in accordance with Article III of the Agreement. He was designated as Temporary Administrator of UNTEA. The Temporary Administrator signed an order, effective 15 October, granting amnesty to all political prisoners sentenced prior to 1 October 1962. On 22 October 1962, under Article IV of the Agreement, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Djalal Abdoh of Iran as United Nations Administrator to head UNTEA. The Administrator, who took up his assignment in the Territory on 15 November 1962, was assisted by a small group of internationally recruited civil servants. The Secretary-General also provided UNTEA with a United Nations security force.[34] The transfer of authority took place peacefully without incident on 1 May 1963, and West New Guinea became a province of Indonesia known as West Irian (Irian Barat).

2 / Representative of the Secretary-General for West Irian

Mandate start: April 1968
Mandate end: November 1969
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 1752 (XVII)
Head of Mission: Mr. Fernando Ortiz-Sanz (Bolivia)

In resolution 1752 (XVII) of 21 September 1962, the General Assembly took note of the Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian), as contained in a note by the Secretary-General. The Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out tasks entrusted to him under the Agreement, which outlined a path towards self-determination for the local population following the transfer of administration of the Territory from the Netherlands to Indonesia. In line with the Agreement, the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) administered the transfer of authority in 1963 (see above).

Having ascertained that the Government of Indonesia was prepared to comply with the remaining responsibilities under the Agreement, on 1 April 1968 the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Fernando Ortiz-Sanz as his Representative to participate, with the support of staff, in the arrangements for the act of self-determination prescribed by Articles XVII and XXI of the Agreement.[35] Between 14 July and 2 August 1969, the enlarged councils – representative councils of West New Guinea (West Irian) which were expanded, at the suggestion of the Indonesian Government, by an appropriate number of representatives of the people – were asked to pronounce themselves, on behalf of the people of West New Guinea (West Irian), as to whether they wished to remain with Indonesia or sever ties with it. Without dissent, all the enlarged councils elected to remain with Indonesia. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly in November 1969, noting the result as an act of free choice and marking the conclusion of the work of this mission.

33. Note by the Secretary-General: Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the 17th session, A/5170.
34. Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization: June 1962–June 1963, A/5501, pp. 35–36.
35. Report of the Secretary-General regarding the act of self-determination in West Irian, A/7723.

Iran

1 / Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mandate start: June 2010
Mandate end: January 2016
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1929 (2010)

In resolution 1929 (2010), the Security Council expressed concern about the proliferation risks presented by the nuclear programme of Iran and requested that the Secretary-General create a panel of up to eight experts to support the Security Council Sanctions Committee. The Panel of Experts was tasked with gathering, examining and analysing information from States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures in the resolution as well as resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008), in particular with respect to incidents of non-compliance. The Panel was also mandated to recommend actions that the Council, the Committee or States could consider taking to improve implementation. In 2015, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, the High Representative of the European Union (the E3/EU+3) and Iran concluded the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which the Security Council endorsed in and annexed to resolution 2231 (2015). In accordance with and subject to the conditions established in that resolution, sanctions were terminated on Implementation Day of the JCPOA, 16 January 2016.

2 / Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

Mandate start: January 2016
Mandate end: September 2025
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2231 (2015)

On 14 July 2015, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, the High Representative of the European Union (a group known as the E3/EU+3) and the Islamic Republic of Iran concluded the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which the Security Council endorsed in resolution 2231 (2015). In accordance with and subject to the conditions established in the resolution and specific restrictions laid out in Annex B to the resolution, Security Council sanctions that had been imposed on Iran since 2006 were terminated on Implementation Day of the JCPOA, 16 January 2016. The restrictions were designed to apply for various periods of time or until the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that all nuclear material in Iran was associated with peaceful activities, whichever came first.

In addition, the resolution specified that all its provisions would be terminated on 18 October 2025 (10 years from Adoption Day of the JCPOA), marking the conclusion of the Security Council's consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue – provided that the provisions of the previous Security Council resolutions had not been reinstated through the so-called snapback mechanism. If, however, any of the JCPOA participants were to notify the Security Council of an issue that appeared to constitute significant non-performance of commitments under the JCPOA, the Security Council would vote within 30 days on a draft resolution to maintain the termination of provisions of previous related Security Council resolutions. In the case of non-adoption of such a resolution, all of the provisions of resolutions 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), 1835 (2008), 1929 (2010) and 2224 (2015) would apply in the same manner as they applied before the adoption of resolution 2231 (2015), effective midnight GMT after the thirtieth day after the notification of non-performance.

This special political mission was established to support the work of the Security Council and its Facilitator in the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), as set out in the note by the President of the Security Council of 16 January 2016 (S/2016/44).

Iran and Iraq

1 / Special Representative of the Secretary-General under Security Council consensus of 28 February 1974

Mandate start: March 1974
Mandate end: May 1974
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: Note by the President of the Security Council (S/11229)
Head of Mission: Mr. Luis Weckmann-Muñoz (Mexico)

As tensions escalated between Iran and Iraq in February 1974, the Security Council heard statements from the representatives of both countries. In a note dated 28 February, the President of the Security Council stated that, based on available information, the underlying cause of the incidents appeared to stem partly from a dispute over the legal basis for the delimitation of the boundary. The note emphasized the concern that, if left unresolved, the situation could deteriorate and threaten regional peace and stability. It deplored the loss of life and urged both parties to exercise restraint, refrain from military action and avoid any measures that could further aggravate tensions.

Recognizing the need for clarification of the situation, the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General appoint a Special Representative to conduct an independent investigation into the events giving rise to a complaint raised by Iraq and report within three months. On 18 March 1974, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Luis Weckmann-Muñoz of Mexico as his Special Representative. Following the Special Representative's visits to Iraq and Iran in April and May 1974, the Secretary-General submitted his report to the Security Council on the implementation of its consensus of 28 February 1974, including recommendations on the way forward toward a comprehensive settlement of bilateral issues between Iraq and Iran.

2 / Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Iran–Iraq Conflict

Mandate start: November 1980
Mandate end: September 1983
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/14251) and the President of the Security Council (S/14252), pursuant to Security Council resolution 479 (1980) and a presidential statement of the Security Council (S/14244)
Head of Mission: Mr. Olof Palme (Sweden)

On 23 September 1980, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General expressed deep concern at the escalation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq and the grave threat it posed to international peace and security. He informed the President of the Council that he had appealed to the parties to put an end to their fighting and make every possible effort to solve their differences by negotiation. He noted that he had contacted representatives of the two Governments and told them that his good offices were available should the parties feel that this might be of use in settling their differences. He also stated that in view of the dangers that would inevitably arise from a further escalation of the conflict, he felt it was urgently necessary for members of the Security Council to meet in consultations.

On 28 September 1980, the Council adopted resolution 479 (1980), in which it called upon Iran and Iraq to refrain immediately from any further use of force and to settle their dispute by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. It urged the two parties to accept any appropriate offer of mediation or conciliation or to resort to regional arrangements or other peaceful means of their own choice that would fulfil their obligations under the United Nations Charter. It supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to offer his good offices for the resolution of the situation.

In a presidential statement dated 5 November 1980, the Security Council considered the extremely serious situation prevailing between Iran and Iraq, the sharp deterioration in the bilateral relations, and the loss of life and heavy material damage linked to armed activity. Members of the Council» expressed deep concern that the conflict could become increasingly serious and pose a grave threat to international peace and security. Members of the Council welcomed and fully supported the appeal of the Secretary-General, as well as the offer that he made of his good offices to resolve the conflict.

In his reply on 11 November 1980, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had appointed Mr. Olof Palme, former Prime Minister of Sweden, as his Special Representative to Iran and Iraq. The Special Representative was to facilitate authoritative communication with and between the Governments concerned so that negotiations for peace could proceed on an urgent basis. The Governments of Iran and Iraq accepted the decision of the Secretary-General.



Press Briefing by Special Representative on Iran-Iraq

Mr. Olof Palme, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Iran-Iraq, held a briefing with the press at United Nations Headquarters on 21 January 1981.

Iraq

1 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Baghdad

Mandate start: March 1998
Mandate end: 2000
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1998/213) and the President of the Security Council (S/1998/214)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Prakash Shah (India)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 9 March 1998, the Secretary-General referred to occasional difficulties in the relations between Iraq and the United Nations, as well as to the need for improved lines of communication between the Government of Iraq and his Office to help avert the development of such difficulties into full-fledged crises that could pose a threat to international peace and security in the region. He informed the Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Prakash Shah of India as his Special Envoy in Baghdad, where he would establish an office and follow closely all developments relevant to the role of the United Nations with regard to Iraq.[36] The Special Envoy was mandated to lend support to existing United Nations activities in arms control; provide assistance on humanitarian, economic and social issues, while giving special attention to any crisis or problem that could benefit from intervention by United Nations Headquarters.

2 / Panel of Experts on Iraq

Mandate start: December 1999
Mandate end: June 2007
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

In a note dated 30 January 1999, against the backdrop of ongoing disarmament and humanitarian challenges in Iraq, the Security Council established a panel on disarmament and current and future monitoring and verification issues, commonly referred to as the "Amorim Panel". The Panel involved experts from the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant bodies. Its role was to assess all the relevant information relating to the state of disarmament in Iraq, including data from ongoing monitoring and verification. The Panel was asked to make recommendations to the Security Council on how to re-establish an effective disarmament and ongoing monitoring and verification regime in Iraq while taking relevant Council resolutions into account.

Further to the recommendations contained in the Amorim Panel report, on 17 December 1999 the Security Council adopted resolution 1284 (1999), establishing the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), a subsidiary body of the Council, to succeed UNSCOM. The Council also requested the Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning Iraq to appoint, in accordance with resolutions 1175 (1998) and 1210 (1998), a group of experts, including independent inspection agents appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 986 (1995).[37] The Council mandated this group to approve speedily contracts for the parts and the equipment necessary to enable Iraq to increase its exports of petroleum and petroleum products, according to lists of parts and equipment approved by that Committee for each individual project.

In June 2007, the Security Council adopted resolution 1762 (2007) and decided to terminate the mandate of UNMOVIC and its Panel of Experts.

3 / United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

Mandate start: December 1999
Mandate end: June 2007
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1284 (1999)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Hans Blix (Sweden)

In response to the Amorim Panel report and its recommendations with regard to disarmament in Iraq, the Security Council established the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) through resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999. UNMOVIC replaced the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), which withdrew from the country on 16 December 1998. UNMOVIC was mandated to verify compliance by Iraq with its disarmament obligations imposed after the 1990–1991 Gulf War. Mr. Hans Blix was appointed as Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC following an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on 27 January 2000. In June 2007, the Security Council adopted resolution 1762 (2007), and decided to terminate the mandate of UNMOVIC and its Panel of Experts, following the withdrawal of the mission's inspectors from Iraq in March 2003.

4 / United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Mandate start: August 2003
Mandate end: December 2025
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1500 (2003)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Sérgio Vieira de Mello (Brazil)

36. Second performance report of the Secretary-General, A/54/631, p. 8.
37. Under paragraph 6 of resolution 986 (1995), independent inspection agents appointed by the Secretary-General were to keep the Committee informed of the amount of petroleum and petroleum products exported from Iraq after the date of entry into force of paragraph 1 of the resolution, and were to verify that the purchase price of the petroleum and petroleum products was reasonable in the light of prevailing market conditions, and that, for the purposes of the arrangements set out in this resolution, the larger share of the petroleum and petroleum products was shipped via the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline and the remainder is exported from the Mina al-Bakr oil terminal.

Iraq

Following the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) of 22 May 2003 reaffirmed the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their political future and control their natural resources. It welcomed the commitment of all parties concerned to support the creation of an environment that would allow Iraqis to fully exercise these rights as soon as possible. The Security Council resolved that the United Nations should play a vital role in humanitarian relief, the post-war reconstruction of Iraq, and the restoration and establishment of national and local institutions for representative governance. It requested that the Secretary-General appoint a Special Representative for Iraq, whose independent responsibilities would include reporting regularly to the Security Council on his mandate activities under this resolution; coordinating the activities of the United Nations in post-conflict processes in Iraq; working closely with United Nations and international agencies engaged in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts; and carrying out a range of other functions to assist the people of Iraq.



Bomb Blast Rips through Part of UN Headquarters in Baghdad

Employees at the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, search through the rubble after an explosion on Tuesday, that killed at least 17 people including the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Some 100 people were reported wounded in the blast. A suicide attacker set off the bomb explosion in a cement truck parked outside the Canal Hotel, which houses the U.N. Headquarters. The United Nations flag is seen at upper right. (19 August 2003)

In his report to the Security Council dated 17 July 2003, the Secretary-General provided an initial assessment of the challenges in implementing resolution 1483 (2003) and outlined the proposed structure and responsibilities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The Security Council established UNAMI on 14 August 2003 through the adoption of resolution 1500 (2003). UNAMI was tasked with assisting the political transition of Iraq, including by supporting democratic institutions, constitutional and electoral processes, and the establishment of a representative government. It also included coordinating humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, promoting human rights and judicial reform, facilitating economic development, and engaging with the Government of Iraq and regional actors.

On 19 August 2003, the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and head of UNAMI, along with 21 United Nations staff members, were tragically killed in a terrorist attack against the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad at Canal Hotel. UNAMI continued its work in Iraq for over two decades. Security Council resolution 2732 (2024) extended the UNAMI mandate for a final period until 31 December 2025.

5 / Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD)

Mandate start: September 2017
Mandate end: September 2024
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2379 (2017)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Karim Asad Ahmad Khan (United Kingdom)



Return of Remains Ceremony Held in Sinjar

A ceremony is held in Solagh, Sinjar, to return the remains of 41 identified Yazidi victims recovered from mass grave sites in Sinjar. The ceremony was organized by the Iraqi authorities. In the centre is Mr. Christian Ritscher, Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD). (24 January 2024)

On 21 September 2017, the Security Council adopted resolution 2379 (2017), in which it noted the request of the Government of Iraq, through its letter dated 9 August 2017, for the United Nations to support domestic efforts to hold the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) accountable for its crimes. Recognizing the need to ensure accountability as a means of delivering justice to victims and preventing the recurrence of such crimes, the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General establish an independent Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD). Headed by a Special Adviser, UNITAD was mandated to support domestic efforts in Iraq to hold ISIL accountable for crimes that may constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. In line with the resolution, the Secretary-General developed terms of reference for the Investigative Team in consultation with the Government of Iraq and submitted them to the Security Council on 9 February 2018. On 31 May 2018, Mr. Karim Asad Ahmad Khan was appointed as Special Adviser leading the Investigative Team. Having been headquartered in Baghdad with satellite offices in Erbil, Dohuk and New York, UNITAD concluded its mandate in September 2024 pursuant to Security Council resolution 2697 (2023).

Iraq and Kuwait

1 / United Nations Coordinator for the return of property from Iraq to Kuwait

Mandate start: March 1991
Mandate end: December 1999
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 686 (1991), exchange of letters between the President of the Security Council (S/22361) and the Secretary-General (S/22387)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Richard Foran (Canada)

On 2 March 1991, the Security Council adopted resolution 686 (1991), demanding that Iraq: a) rescind immediately its actions purporting to annex Kuwait; b) accept in principle its liability under international law for any loss, damage or injury arising in regard to Kuwait and third States, and their nationals and corporations, as a result of the invasion and illegal occupation of Kuwait; c) immediately release, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals detained by Iraq and return the remains of any deceased detainees; d) immediately begin to return all Kuwaiti property seized by Iraq, to be completed in the shortest possible period. Through its letter of 5 March 1991, the Government of Iraq informed the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General that it had decided, pursuant to its acceptance of Security Council resolution 686 (1991), that it was prepared to hand over quantities of gold, quantities of Kuwaiti paper currency, museum objects and civilian aircraft seized by the Iraqi authorities after 2 August 1990, and that it had requested to be informed of the procedures for carrying out the handover.

In a letter dated 19 March 1991, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Security Council were of the view that the modalities for the return of property from Iraq should be arranged through the Secretary-General in consultation with the parties. Subsequently, in a letter of 26 March 1991, the Secretary-General informed the Council that he had designated the Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of General Services in the Department of Administration and Management, Mr. Richard Foran of Canada, to be responsible for coordinating the return of property from Iraq to Kuwait. The Coordinator was to receive, register and submit to Iraq claims presented by Kuwait, and facilitate the return of property that Iraq had declared it had in its possession and was ready to return.

In his report to the Security Council on 2 March 1994, the Secretary-General noted that following consultations with the parties in April and May 1991, it was agreed to give priority to the following categories: (a) gold, currency notes, commemorative and commercial coins and related items belonging to the Central Bank of Kuwait, (b) civilian aircraft and spare parts belonging to Kuwait Airways Corporation, (c) museum objects belonging to the Kuwait National Museum and (d) the Central Library of Kuwait. At a later stage, arrangements were also made for the hand-over of properties belonging to the different Ministries of the Government of Kuwait. Other properties were also handed over. On the whole, the hand-over operations were carried out without major complications.

The Secretary-General submitted a report to the Security Council on 16 December, noting that the Government of Kuwait continued to stress the importance it attached to the return of irreplaceable property, specifically, archives belonging to different parts of the government. Kuwait also sought the return of private property and military property. The Secretary-General noted that these items had been brought to the attention of the Representatives of Iraq on a number of occasions. The Coordinator maintained contacts with the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait until 1999. This mission was succeeded by the United Nations High-Level Coordinator which was established pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999).

2 / United Nations High-Level Coordinator pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Mandate start: December 1999
Mandate end: June 2013
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2000/112) and the President of the Security Council (S/2000/113) pursuant to resolution 1284 (1999)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Yuli Vorontsov (Russia)

In response to the Amorim Panel report and its recommendations pertaining to prisoners of war and Kuwaiti property,[38] the Security Council through resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999, requested the Secretary-General to appoint a high-level coordinator to monitor and report on compliance by Iraq with its obligations regarding the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third country nationals or their remains, as well as the return of all Kuwaiti property, including archives seized by Iraq. In his letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General informed the Council that he decided to appoint Mr. Yuli Vorontsov of Russia as his High-level Coordinator pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999). The High-level Coordinator held meetings with various representatives of parties concerned with his mandated activities, such as the members of the Security Council, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of the Islamic Conferences (OIC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He actively promoted cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait in the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals. The High-level Coordinator focused his efforts on facilitating joint exploratory missions, within

38. Letter (S/1999/356) dated 27 March 1999 from the Chairman of the panels established pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council of 30 January 1999 (S/1999/100) addressed to the President of the Security Council, pp. 68 - 72

the framework of the Technical Subcommittee and under the aegis of the ICRC, to sites in Iraq where those missing persons might have been buried. He also held meetings with Iraqi and Kuwaiti representatives to discuss the return of Kuwaiti property. The High-level Coordinator submitted 35 reports to the Security Council between April 2000 and June 2013.

On 27 June 2013, following the significant changes in the context of Iraq, including the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq, the Security Council adopted resolution 2107 (2013) and decided to terminate the measures in paragraphs 2 (c), 2 (d) and 3 (c) of resolution 686 (1991), paragraph 30 of resolution 687 (1991) and the arrangements set forth in paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999). The Security Council also requested that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI promote, support and facilitate efforts regarding the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third country nationals or their remains, and the return of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, seized by Iraq. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to report separately to the Security Council on these matters in his reports on the progress made towards the fulfilment of all UNAMI's responsibilities.

Kosovo[39]

1 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Kosovo future status process

Mandate start: November 2005
Mandate end: April 2008
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2005/708) and the President of the Security Council (S/2005/709), pursuant to the presidential statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/2005/51)
Head of Mission: Mr. Martti Ahtisaari (Finland)

In a letter dated 23 May 2005, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that the success and sustainability of any future status process for Kosovo would require progress on nine standards – functioning democratic institutions, rule of law, freedom of movement, returns and reintegration, economy, property rights, cultural heritage, dialogue with Belgrade, and the Kosovo Protection Corps. The process would also need to be carried out in a dynamic, priority-based manner within the overall framework of a comprehensive and integrated strategy. To that end, the Secretary-General notified the Council of his intention to appoint a Special Envoy to assess whether conditions were conducive to a political process designed to determine the future status of Kosovo, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and relevant presidential statements.

On 7 October 2005, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the situation in Kosovo, in which he informed the Council of his intention to appoint a Special Envoy to lead the future status process. On 31 October 2005, he specified that he was planning to appoint Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland, as Special Envoy. The Security Council welcomed the appointment of the Special Envoy on 10 November 2005, and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo (UNOSEK) was established in Vienna the following month. The Special Envoy organized direct talks between representatives of Belgrade and Pristina on the decentralization of Kosovo's governmental and administrative functions and other issues.[40] He transmitted the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement to the Security Council on 26 March 2007 and UNOSEK closed in April 2008. As the Secretary-General reported in July 2008, the Kosovo authorities committed themselves to implementing the Comprehensive Proposal in full.

39. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
40. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 2006, pp.466-467

Lebanon

1 / Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon

Mandate start: August 2000
Mandate end: 2007
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2000/778) and the President of the Security Council (S/2000/779)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Rolf Göran Knutsson (Sweden)

In a report to the Security Council dated 20 July 2000, the Secretary-General recommended the appointment of a Personal Representative for southern Lebanon to coordinate United Nations activities in the region and to maintain diplomatic and political liaison with the Government of Lebanon regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), both of which concern the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a peacekeeping mission. On 4 August 2000, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General informed the Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Rolf Göran Knutsson as his Personal Representative to southern Lebanon. The Personal Representative worked in close cooperation with the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (see below).

The mandate was expanded in 2005 to become the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Lebanon, with a whole of Lebanon mandate, pursuant to an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2005/725) and the President of the Security Council (S/2005/726). The Office evolved into the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon in 2007 following an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2007/85) and the President of the Security Council (S/2007/86).



Secretary-General Meets Special Envoy for Southern Lebanon

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) meets Geir O. Pedersen, Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Southern Lebanon, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. (9 January 2007)

2 / Special Envoy for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)

Mandate start: December 2004
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2004/974) and the President of the Security Council (S/2004/975)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen (Norway)

In resolution 1559 (2004), adopted on 2 September 2004, the Security Council reaffirmed its call for the strict respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout the country. The Council called upon all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon and called for the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. It requested that the Secretary-General report to the Security Council within 30 days on the implementation of the resolution and decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

On 14 December 2004, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint a Special Envoy for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) to enable him to report to the Council every six months on its implementation, as requested by the Council in its presidential statement of 19 October 2004. Following Special Envoy Rød-Larsen's departure in May 2016, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs has fulfilled the reporting functions of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on resolution 1559 (2004).

3 / United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission

Mandate start: April 2005
Mandate end: February 2009
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1595 (2005)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Detlev Mehlis (Germany)

Following the 14 February 2005 bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, which killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and others, the Security Council adopted resolution 1595 (2005) on 7 April 2005. It expressed unequivocal condemnation of the attack and noted conclusions of the fact-finding mission to Lebanon deployed from 25 February until 24 March 2005 that serious flaws existed in the Lebanese investigative process, including its lack of capacity and commitment to reaching a credible conclusion. The Council decided, consistent with Lebanon's government approval of its decision, to establish the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIIC), based in Lebanon,

to assist the Lebanese authorities in investigating all aspects of the attack, including identifying perpetrators, sponsors, organizers and accomplices. It also requested that the Secretary-General take the necessary steps to ensure the Commission's prompt establishment and full functioning, including through the recruitment of impartial and experienced staff with relevant expertise. On 13 May 2005, the Secretary-General, through his letter to the President of the Security Council, informed the Council that he had appointed Mr. Detlev Mehlis to lead UNIIIC. Until the termination of its mandate, on 28 February 2009, UNIIIC submitted regular reports to the Security Council on its investigations and findings. UNIIIC was succeeded by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon on 1 March 2009.

4 / Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)

Mandate start: February 2007
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2007/85) and the President of the Security Council (S/2007/86)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Geir O. Pedersen (Norway)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 8 February 2007, the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to appoint Mr. Geir O. Pedersen as his Special Coordinator for Lebanon. In this capacity, he served as representative of the Secretary-General responsible for coordinating the work of the United Nations in Lebanon and representing him on all political aspects of the United Nations work in the country. The Office of the Special Coordinator, in coordination with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), works with Lebanon and Israel to support the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). Among other functions, the Special Coordinator for Lebanon was tasked with ensuring that the activities of the United Nations Country Team in Lebanon coordinated with the Government of Lebanon, donors and international financial institutions, in line with the overall objectives of the United Nations in Lebanon. The Office of the Special Coordinator replaced the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Lebanon and predecessors that had been in Lebanon since 2000.

Liberia

1 / United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Liberia (UNOL)

Mandate start: November 1997
Mandate end: September 2003
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: letter from the Secretary-General (S/1997/817) to the President of the Security Council, followed by an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1998/1080) and the President of the Security Council (S/1998/1081)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Felix Downes-Thomas (Gambia)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 22 October 1997, the Secretary-General noted that the fourth Ministerial Meeting of the ad hoc Special Conference on Liberia (previously known as the ad hoc Special Conference to Support the Peace Process in Liberia) had been convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 3 October 1997. The purpose of the meeting was to build upon the momentum generated by the successful completion of the Liberian peace process, with a view towards supporting efforts to consolidate the peace in Liberia. The Secretary-General informed participants that a proposed United Nations Peace-building Support Office would soon be established in Liberia, and that the head of the Office would be the focal point for the Organization's post-conflict peacebuilding activities in Liberia and have overall responsibility for harmonizing the efforts of the United Nations system in the country.

The Secretary-General established the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Liberia (UNOL) on 1 November 1997. This step followed the holding of elections – which constituted a key element in the peace agreement – and the withdrawal of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). As the Secretary-General outlined in a letter to the President of the Security Council on 11 November 1998, the UNOL mandate was focused on the promotion of reconciliation and the strengthening of democratic institutions; political support for efforts to mobilize international resources and assistance for national recovery and reconstruction; and coordination of United Nations efforts related to peacebuilding. UNOL was the first United Nations peacebuilding support office. Following further political developments in Liberia, the Secretary-General closed UNOL in September 2003 and transferred its functions to the new peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), to support the implementation of the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement.[41]

41. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 2003, pp. 60–61.

Liberia

2 / Panel of Experts on Liberia

Mandate start: March 2002
Mandate end: December 2003
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1343 (2001)

In resolution 1343 (2001) of 7 March 2001, the Security Council referenced the link between the diamond trade and the supply of weapons, fuel and other prohibited materials to armed groups and underscored its concern that the illicit diamond trade transiting through Liberia was fueling conflict in neighbouring Sierra Leone. Further, it decided to establish a Security Council Committee to implement sanction measures it had previously imposed and requested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, establish a five-member Panel of Experts for a period of six months to monitor the implementation of the measures and to investigate any violations. The Secretary-General appointed the Panel on 23 March 2001, and its report of 17 October 2001 was transmitted to the Council through the Committee. The Panel issued a report on its humanitarian and socioeconomic impact assessment on 7 August 2003 and its final report on 28 October 2003. The Security Council adopted resolution 1521(2003) on 22 December 2003, and decided to dissolve the Committee established under resolution 1343 (2001).

3 / Panel of Experts on Liberia

Mandate start: December 2003
Mandate end: May 2016
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1521 (2003)

In resolution 1521 (2003) on 22 December 2003, the Security Council expressed concern regarding ongoing violations of sanctions imposed by resolution 1343 (2001), incomplete implementation of the ceasefire in Liberia and the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and links between the illicit trade in natural resources, such as diamonds and timber, the proliferation of and trafficking in illicit arms, and conflicts in the region. It decided to establish a Committee of the Security Council to monitor the implementation of relevant sanctions and requested the Secretary-General to establish a corresponding Panel of Experts, consisting of up to five members. The Panel was mandated to: conduct a follow-up assessment mission to Liberia and neighbouring States; report on the implementation of the sanction measures; assess progress made towards the goals set out by the Council for the lifting of sanctions; and report to the Council through the Committee with observations and recommendations, including on how to minimize any humanitarian and socioeconomic impact of the measures. Through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2288 (2016) on 25 May 2016, the Security Council decided to terminate the sanctions regime and to dissolve the Committee and its Panel of Experts.

Libya

1 / United Nations Commissioner in Libya

Mandate start: December 1949
Mandate end: December 1951
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 289 (IV)
Head of Mission: Mr. Adrian Pelt (the Netherlands)

On 21 November 1949, the General Assembly adopted resolution 289 (IV) on the question of the disposal of the former Italian colonies. It recalled the Treaty of Peace with Italy (1947), whose annex committed Italy to relinquishing all claims to Libya, as per the recommendation of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly decided that Libya – comprising Cyrenaica, the Fezzan and Tripolitania – should be constituted as an independent and sovereign State as soon as possible and no later than 1 January 1952. It further decided that representatives of the inhabitants should establish a constitution for Libya, including arrangements that set out the form of government, by meeting and consulting together in a National Assembly. In addition, it decided that the General Assembly and the Security Council would appoint a United Nations Commissioner in Libya to assist its people in formulating the constitution and establishing an independent government. The General Assembly appointed a Council of 10 members (1 each for Egypt, France, Italy, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States, 1 for each of the three subdivisions of Libya and 1 for minorities) to aid and advise the Commissioner. In December 1951, having delivered on the mandate outlined in part A of General Assembly resolution 289 (IV), the Commissioner handed over his powers to the independent Libyan authorities.



UN Commissioner for Libya

Mr. Adrian Pelt, U.N. Commissioner for Libya, addresses the crowd from the balcony of the Municipal Building in Benghazi, on Independence Day. (1 January 1950)

2 / Panel of Experts on Libya

Mandate start: March 2011
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1973 (2011)

In resolution 1970 (2011) of 26 February 2011, the Security Council expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Libya; condemned the violence and use of force against civilians in the country, as well as the repression of peaceful demonstrations; unequivocally rejected incitement to hostility and violence against civilians at the highest levels of the Government of Libya; demanded an immediate end to the violence; and called for measures to address the legitimate demands of the population. Furthermore, the Council imposed an arms embargo and targeted sanctions, including an asset freeze and a travel ban, and established a Sanctions Committee to oversee their implementation. In resolution 1973 (2011) of 17 March 2011, the Security Council established a Panel of Experts to assist the Committee in monitoring implementation of the sanction measures, which it modified in this and subsequent resolutions. Currently, in addition to the arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban, there are also measures in place aimed at preventing the illicit exports of petroleum from Libya.

The Panel was mandated to: a) assist the Sanctions Committee in fulfilling its mandate under resolutions 1970 (2011) and modified in subsequent resolutions; b) gather and analyse information from States, United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other stakeholders on the implementation of sanctions, particularly violations; c) recommend actions to enhance compliance; and d) report to the Security Council. The Panel consists of six experts, appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Sanctions Committee. The Panel's mandate has been regularly adjusted and renewed, most recently by resolution 2769 (2025) until 15 May 2026.

3 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Libya

Mandate start: March 2011
Mandate end: September 2011
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2011/126) and the President of the Security Council (S/2011/127)
Head of Mission: Mr. Abdel-Elah Mohamed Al-Khatib (Jordan)

In 2011, an internal crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya escalated into a civil conflict. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 11 March 2011, the Secretary-General noted that the situation in Libya had seriously deteriorated. In particular, the disproportionate use of force by the Libyan authorities had forced hundreds of thousands of residents and migrant workers to flee to neighbouring

countries, while a large number of people had been killed and wounded. The Secretary-General further informed the Council that he had decided to appoint Mr. Abdel-Elah Mohamed Al-Khatib of Jordan as his Special Envoy to provide good offices to consult and explore with the Libyan authorities, neighbouring states, regional organizations and other stakeholders how best to resolve the crisis in Libya. Special Envoy Al-Khatib served as the high-level representative of the Secretary-General on the Libyan crisis, provided overall leadership and oversaw the coordination of the United Nations system in this regard. He worked closely with Libyan interlocutors, Governments in the region and with the international community.

On 17 March, the Security Council, in resolution 1973 (2011), demanded an immediate ceasefire and an end to violence and all attacks against civilians; stressed the need to intensify efforts to find a solution to the crisis; noted the decision of the Secretary-General to send his Special Envoy to Libya with the aim of facilitating dialogue to lead to the political reforms necessary to find a peaceful and sustainable solution; authorized Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements, to take all necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack; and decided to create a no-fly zone in Libya in order to help protect civilians. On 19 March, United States and European forces launched an air strike campaign to establish a no-fly zone over the country and protect civilians. Meanwhile, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General carried out mediation efforts and sought to establish a ceasefire.[42] In parallel, as indicated in his letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General appointed a Special Adviser to lead an integrated pre-assessment process for Libya post-conflict planning of the United Nations system for Libya. In his briefing to the Security Council on 30 August, the Secretary-General noted that the National Transition Council, appeared to be largely in control of Tripoli and other cities, while the fighting continued in some parts of the country, most notably Sabha, Sirte, Zuwara and points to the south. The Secretary-General expressed his hope for a quick conclusion to the conflict and an end to the suffering of Libya's people and announced his aim to get UN personnel on the ground as quickly as possible, under a robust Security Council mandate. The Special Envoy's appointment ended when the United Nations Support Mission for Libya was established in September 2011.

4 / United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

Mandate start: September 2011
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2009 (2011), pursuant to a letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/542)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ian Martin (United Kingdom)



The Special Representative of the Secretary General, Hanna Tetteh, participated in the public consultation in Nalut, Libya

The Special Representative of the Secretary General, Hanna Tetteh, heard from mayors, community leaders, security actors, notables, women and youth in a townhall event and meetings in Nalut, Libya. (13 June 2025)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 7 September 2011, the Secretary-General stated that the new authorities of Libya were taking several steps to stabilize the security situation in the country and to begin providing basic services to the Libyan people. He noted that the authorities had requested the assistance of the United Nations and the international community in this process. In response, he proposed to the Council the establishment of an integrated United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), with a mandate of supporting national efforts to: a) restore public security and order and promote the rule of law; b) undertake inclusive political dialogue, promote national reconciliation, and embark on constitution-making and electoral processes; c) extend State authority, including through the strengthening of emerging accountable institutions and the restoration of public services; d) protect human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups, and support transitional justice; e) take immediate steps to initiate economic recovery; and f) coordinate the support that may be requested from other multilateral and bilateral actors. Subsequently, on 16 September 2011, the Security Council adopted resolution 2009 (2011) welcoming the proposal of the Secretary-General and deciding to establish UNSMIL.

42. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 2011, p. 266.

Mali

1 / United Nations Office in Mali (UNOM)

Mandate start: December 2012
Mandate end: April 2013
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2085 (2012)
Head of Mission: Mr. João Bernardo Honwana (Mozambique)

In Security Council resolution 2085 (2012) of 20 December 2012, the Security Council expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Mali. The Council highlighted the presence of terrorist and extremist groups in the north of the country and the threat they posed to regional and international peace and security. It condemned the ongoing attacks against the Malian Armed Forces and civilians, as well as human rights violations and abuses, including those involving children and sexual violence. The Council emphasized the urgent need to restore constitutional order and democratic governance through an inclusive political process and credible elections. Having welcomed the strategic concept of operations submitted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the deployment of an African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA), the Council authorized the mission under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter for an initial period of one year. The Council also underscored the need for coordinated support from international partners and encouraged continued planning for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, should conditions permit. Furthermore, the Council requested that the Secretary-General establish, in consultation with Malian authorities, a multidisciplinary United Nations presence in Mali, so as to provide coordinated, coherent support to the ongoing political and security processes, as well as to the planning, deployment and operations of AFISMA.

In accordance with Security Council resolution 2085(2012), the United Nations Office in Mali (UNOM) began its deployment on 21 January 2013. A coordination mechanism – comprising the African Union (AU), ECOWAS, the European Union and the United Nations – was established in Bamako, with the AU and the United Nations as co-chairs. In addition to harmonizing the efforts of the international community, UNOM facilitated the establishment of a core group of women leaders to contribute to the Malian peace process.

UNOM was subsumed into the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2100 (2013) of 25 April 2013. MINUSMA assumed responsibility for the implementation of tasks previously carried out by UNOM.

2 / Panel of Experts on Mali

Mandate start: September 2017
Mandate end: September 2023
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2374 (2017)

Under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, Security Council resolution 2374 (2017) of 5 September 2017 established a targeted sanctions regime in response to the deteriorating security and political situation in Mali, persistent obstacles to the implementation of the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, and ongoing attacks against civilians, Malian defence and security forces, and United Nations personnel. Emphasizing that security and stability in Mali are inextricably linked to that of the Sahel and West Africa regions, as well as the situation in Libya and the wider North Africa region, and acknowledging the impact of the situation in Mali on peace and security in these areas, the Council decided to impose a travel ban and asset freeze on individuals and entities designated by the Sanctions Committee as responsible for or complicit in actions that threaten the peace, security or stability of Mali; obstruct or delay the implementation of the Agreement; engage in attacks against the State of Mali, the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) or international presences; commit violations of international human rights or humanitarian law; or recruit or use child soldiers in violation of international law.

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to establish a Panel of Experts to assist the Sanctions Committee in monitoring the implementation of sanction measures and in gathering, examining and analysing relevant information. Such information could relate to: violations of and obstructions and threats to the implementation of the Agreement by signatory parties; attacks against entities referenced in the Agreement, including Malian security and defence forces, but also United Nations peacekeepers and other international security presences; the financing of individuals and entities who undermined the Agreement, including through organized crime; and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

On 12 December 2017, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Sanctions Committee, appointed four members of the Panel of Experts, who began their work on 1 February 2018. As per Security Council resolution 2649 (2022), the Panel submitted its final report on 3 August 2023. On 30 August 2023, a draft resolution on the renewal of the Panel mandate was not adopted. The Panel's mandate ended on 30 September 2023.

Middle East

1 / United Nations Mediator in Palestine

Mandate start: May 1948
Mandate end: August 1949
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 186 (S-2)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Folke Bernadotte (Sweden)

On 14 May 1948, amid the outbreak of the Arab–Israeli War, the General Assembly adopted resolution 186 (S-2), affirming its support of Security Council efforts to bring about a truce in Palestine and urging all Governments, organizations and individuals to help make it effective. It also decided to appoint a United Nations Mediator in Palestine, selected by a committee representing China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Mediator's role included using his good offices with local and community authorities in Palestine to: arrange for the operation of common services necessary for the safety and well-being of the population of Palestine; assure the protection of Holy Places, religious buildings and sites in Palestine; and promote a peaceful adjustment to the future situation of Palestine.

On 20 May 1948, the permanent members of the Security Council appointed Mr. Folke Bernadotte as the United Nations Mediator in Palestine.[43] He served in the role until he was assassinated in Jerusalem on 17 September 1948. On the same day, with the approval of the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General appointed his Personal Representative, Ralph J. Bunche of the United States, as Bernadotte's successor. The Council approved the decision the following day and Bunche mediated the armistice between the Arab States and Israel, as requested by Security Council resolution 62 (1948). The United Nations Mediator in Palestine was the first special political mission deployed by the United Nations.



United Nations Mediator

Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, greets Count Folke Bernadotte, United Nations Palestine Mediator, and spouse Estelle Manville-Bernadotte, upon their arrival at La Guardia Airport. (12 July 1948)

2 / Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Jerusalem

Mandate start: July 1967
Mandate end: September 1967
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 2254 (ES-V)
Head of Mission: Mr. Ernesto A. Thalmann (Switzerland)

In the aftermath of the June 1967 Arab–Israeli War, the United Nations General Assembly convened its fifth emergency special session and adopted resolution 2254 (ES-V) on measures taken by Israel to change the status of the city of Jerusalem. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation and the implementation of the resolution. In identical notes and corrections circulated to the Security Council and General Assembly on 14 August 1967, the Secretary-General announced that he had appointed Mr. Ernesto A. Thalmann of Switzerland as his Personal Representative in Jerusalem. The Secretary-General specified that the Personal Representative's assignment was to obtain information as a basis for the report requested in resolution 2254 (ES-V) and that it did not entail any responsibility for negotiations or for implementing the resolution. Personal Representative Thalmann arrived in Tel Aviv and proceeded to Jerusalem in August 1967. He completed his mission on 3 September and the Secretary-General submitted his report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on 12 September 1967.

3 / Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Middle East, or the United Nations Middle East Mission (UNMEM)

Mandate start: November 1967
Mandate end: 1973
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 242 (1967)
Head of Mission: Mr. Gunnar Jarring (Sweden)

Security Council resolution 242 (1967) requested that the Secretary-General designate a Special Representative to establish and maintain contacts with the States concerned with a view to securing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Council mandated the Special Representative to apply the principles laid out in the resolution: a) the withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the June 1967 conflict; and b) the termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threats or acts of force. The Special Representative, Mr. Gunnar

43. Security Council, *Official Records*, Third Year, No. 71, p. 4.

Jarring, set up the headquarters of the United Nations Middle East Mission (UNMEM) in Cyprus on 10 December 1967, and by 20 December he had completed a first round of visits to the Governments concerned. His engagements continued until 1973.



Secretary of State of USA, William Rogers, at United Nations

Mr. William Rogers, US Secretary of State, visited the United Nations Headquarters in New York today for discussions on the Middle East situation with UN Secretary-General, U Thant, and Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Middle East.

Seen here prior to today's meeting, from left to right are: Mr. Gunnar Jarring; US Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers; Secretary-General U Thant; Mr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs; and Mr. Charles W. Yost, Permanent Representative of USA to UN. (3 August 1970)

On 20 April 1973, by resolution 331 (1973), the Council requested that the Secretary-General submit a comprehensive account of United Nations efforts pertaining to the situation in the Middle East since June 1967. On 18 May 1973, the Secretary-General submitted the requested report, which outlined the status of the ceasefire – maintained largely through United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), a peacekeeping operation; the conditions in the occupied territories; developments in Jerusalem; the refugee situation; and Palestinian rights. He also affirmed the persistent impasse among the parties concerning a political settlement. The report underscored the continued, pressing role of the United Nations in preserving the ceasefire, while emphasizing the absence of progress towards resolving the underlying issues. The Security Council met between 20 and 26 July 1973 to consider the situation in the Middle East on the basis of the Secretary-General's report, but did not adopt a draft resolution, leading the Special Representative to cease his work.

4 / United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process

Mandate start: June 1994
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolutions 48/213 and 49/88
First Head of Mission: Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen (Norway)

In resolution 48/213 of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly recalled its previous resolutions on assistance to the Palestinian people, took note of the Secretary-General's report on that matter to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, welcomed the evolving political situation and expressed hope that it would lead to the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Recognizing the urgent need for coordinated international assistance in support of the Palestinian population, the Assembly welcomed the establishment of coordination mechanisms such as the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the World Bank Consultative Group for the West Bank and Gaza. Accordingly, the Assembly requested that the United Nations system, in cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, intensify its efforts to respond to Palestinian development needs and requested that the Secretary-General continue consultations and report on progress at its forty-ninth session.

On 20 December 1994 the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/21, in which it took note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 48/213 and reaffirmed the urgent need for sustained international assistance to the Palestinian people. The Assembly welcomed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on 13 September 1993, the Gaza–Jericho Agreement of 4 May 1994 and the Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities of 29 August 1994. The Assembly also expressed full support for progress in the peace process. It also welcomed the results of the 1 October 1993 Conference to Support Middle East Peace, including the creation of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the work of the World Bank Consultative Group.

Further, the General Assembly stressed the importance of the appointment of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories (UNSCO) and called for intensified United Nations system assistance in cooperation with the PLO. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen of Norway as Special Coordinator, who was mandated to serve as a focal point for all United Nations economic, social and other assistance to the Palestinians in the occupied territories. In 1999, the UNSCO mandate was enhanced: the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, also became the Personal Representative of the Secretary-



Secretary-General Arrives in London for Quartet Meeting

Secretary-General Kofi Annan (left) chats with former World Bank President James Wolfensohn (right), now special envoy for the Quartet. In the centre is Ms. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State of the United States. Mr. Annan arrived in London, United Kingdom, to attend a Quartet meeting. (23 June 2003)

General to the PLO and the Palestinian Authority. The Special Coordinator, who was charged with boosting United Nations development assistance in support of the peace process, also represented the Secretary-General in discussions relating to the peace process with the parties and the international community. Between 2002 and 2006, the Special Coordinator was the Secretary-General's envoy to the Middle East Quartet, which comprised the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and the Russian Federation (see below). The Quartet launched the Road Map in 2003.

5 / Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement

- Mandate start: June 2005
- Mandate end: April 2006
- Mandating body: Security Council
- Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2005/432) and the President of the Security Council (S/2005/433)
- Head of Mission: Mr. James Wolfensohn (United States)

In a letter dated 28 June 2005, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that events in the Middle East had raised hopes for a possible resumption of the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. He also noted that, although formal negotiations had not resumed, the two parties had agreed to hold direct discussions to coordinate the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank, scheduled for August 2005. He notified the Council that the Quartet – comprising the European Union, the Russian Federation, the United Nations and the United States – had appointed Mr. James Wolfensohn of the United States as its Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement to ensure that the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza would take place in a manner conducive to a renewed peace process.

The mandate of the Special Envoy focused on the non-security aspects of the withdrawal, particularly the disposition of assets; passages, access and trade; and the revival of the Palestinian economy in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip during and after the withdrawal. The mandate ended on 30 April 2006, as agreed in an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in April 2006.

Myanmar

1 / Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar

Mandate start: May 2007
Mandate end: December 2016
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 61/232
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria)

In resolution 61/232 of 22 December 2006, the General Assembly expressed grave concern over systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Myanmar. It noted that military attacks on villages in Karen State and other ethnic regions were causing forced displacements and serious human rights violations. The Assembly also called attention to restrictions on the National League for Democracy and other political parties, including the extended house arrest of leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo, and the lack of progress towards democratic reform, the inability of United Nations representatives to visit Myanmar for almost three years despite repeated requests, and the continued denial of freedom for human rights defenders.



Secretary-General Meets Opposition Leader of Myanmar

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (second from right) meets with Aung San Suu Kyi (left), Chairperson and General Secretary of the National League for Democracy of Myanmar. Also in the meeting, Vijay Nambiar (right), the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar. (21 September 2012)

The resolution welcomed the Secretary-General's engagement and visits of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to Myanmar in May and November 2006, when meetings took place with senior Government officials and National League for Democracy leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue providing his good offices; and to pursue discussions on human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and people of Myanmar, including all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process; and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard. The Secretary-General was also asked to provide the assistance necessary to enable his Special Envoy, once appointed, to discharge the mandates fully and effectively.

The Secretary-General reported that, on 22 May 2007, he designated Mr. Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria to continue to pursue the good offices mandate on Myanmar that the General Assembly had previously entrusted to the Secretary-General. The General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Special Adviser for the last time in resolution 70/233, which led to the end of the mission on 31 December 2016.

2 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

Mandate start: December 2017
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 72/248
First Head of Mission: Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener (Switzerland)

In resolution 72/248 of 24 December 2017, the General Assembly expressed grave concern over reports of serious human rights violations and abuses in Myanmar. In particular, it cited the unlawful use of force by non-State actors and excessive force by the military and security forces in the states of Kachin, Rakhine and Shan, including extrajudicial killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearances. The Assembly urged Myanmar authorities to halt all military operations that had resulted in the systematic violation and abuse of human rights against the Rohingya community and other ethnic minorities, and to ensure accountability for perpetrators. It requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions relating to Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders. The Assembly also asked him to appoint a Special Envoy on Myanmar and to offer assistance to the Government of Myanmar.

On 26 April 2018, the Secretary-General appointed Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as his Special Envoy on Myanmar. Since that time, the General Assembly has renewed the mandate of the Special Envoy annually. The Special Envoy works in close partnership with all stakeholders, including local communities, civil society, countries and partners in the region – notably the Government of Bangladesh and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – and the broader membership of the United Nations. Focusing on reducing the suffering of the people of Myanmar through concrete initiatives, the Special Envoy also collaborated with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its Special Envoy to seek practical solutions to the Rohingya crisis and violations against human rights.



Special Envoy Myanmar

The Special Envoy on Myanmar, Noeleen Heyzer, meets with Rohingya women during her visit to Bangladesh refugee camps in August 2022.
Credit: Office of the Special Envoy on Myanmar

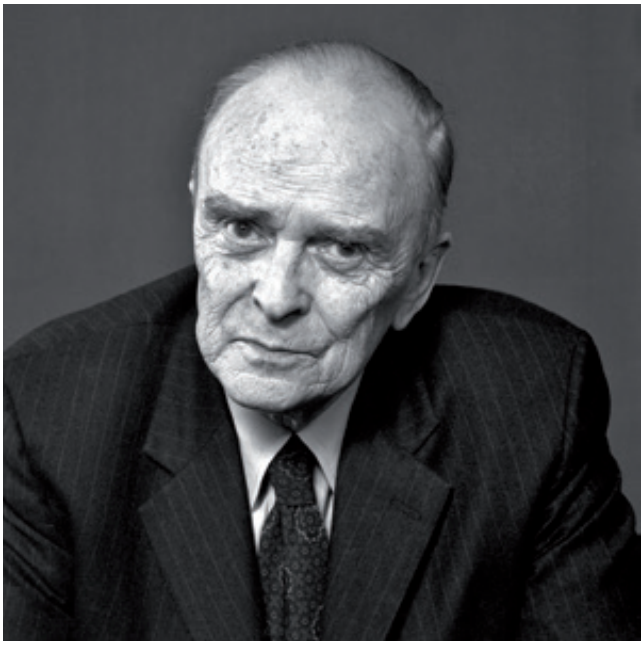
Namibia

1 / United Nations High Commissioner for Namibia

Name change: United Nations Commissioner for Namibia (June 1968)

Mandate start: June 1967
Mandate end: 1988
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 2248 (S-V)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Constantin A. Stavropoulos (Greece)

In resolution 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the people of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa had an inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. It declared that South Africa had disavowed the Mandate by failing to fulfil its obligations regarding the administration of the Territory and by failing to ensure the moral and material well-being and security of the indigenous inhabitants. The General Assembly thus decided to terminate the Mandate, which South Africa had exercised on behalf of His Britannic Majesty, and that the Territory would come under the immediate direct responsibility of the United Nations.



United Nations Commissioner for Namibia

Portrait of Mr. Sean McBride who was appointed as United Nations Commissioner for Namibia by the General Assembly on 18 December 1973. He took up his appointment on 1 January 1974 and will serve for an initial period of a year. Mr. McBride succeeds Mr. Agha Abdul Hamid, who has served as Acting Commissioner since December 1969. (1 February 1974)

On 19 May 1967, the Assembly adopted resolution 2248 (S-V), which established the United Nations Council for South West Africa, comprising 11 Member States elected by the Assembly, to administer the Territory until it achieved independence. The Council's duties included enacting necessary laws and regulations until a legislative assembly could be formed through elections based on universal adult suffrage; taking immediate steps, in consultation with the Territory's inhabitants, to establish a constituent assembly responsible for drafting a constitution leading to a legislative assembly and accountable government; maintaining law and order; and transferring all powers to the people upon independence. The Assembly also decided that the United Nations Council for South West Africa should delegate necessary executive and administrative tasks to a United Nations Commissioner for South West Africa, to be appointed by the General Assembly upon the Secretary-General's nomination. The General Assembly renamed the post United Nations Commissioner for Namibia in 1968.

2 / Representative of the Secretary-General under resolution 319 (1972)

Mandate start: August 1972
Mandate end: December 1973
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 319 (1972)
Head of Mission: Mr. Alfred M. Escher (Switzerland)

In resolution 309 (1972) of 4 February 1972, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with a group comprising representatives from Argentina, Somalia and Yugoslavia, to initiate contacts with all concerned parties to establish the necessary conditions so as to enable the people of Namibia to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. Subsequently, in resolution 319 (1972) of 1 August 1972, the Security Council recognized the special responsibility and obligation of the United Nations to support the people and Territory of Namibia in exercising their right to self-determination and independence, and requested the Secretary-General to appoint a representative to assist him in the discharge of the mandate contained in resolution 309 (1972). The resolution also called on South Africa to cooperate in this process and requested that the Secretary-General report back on its implementation.

In his report to the Security Council dated 17 July 1972, following his consultations with various stakeholders, including in a visit to South Africa and Namibia in March 1972, the Secretary-General proposed the appointment of a Representative, with headquarters in New York, to assist in achieving the aim of self-determination and independence and to recommend ways to overcome differences. The Security Council, recognizing the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination and independence, approved his proposal in resolution 319 (1972) of 1 August 1972. Later, in resolution 323 (1972) of 6 December 1972, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that people of Namibia, freely and with strict regard to the principle of human equality, exercise their right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Pursuant to these resolutions, the Secretary-General and his Representative maintained contacts with the Government of South Africa, and reported to the Council on the content of these discussions on 30 April 1973. He noted that the position of the Government of South Africa was still far from coinciding with that established in the resolutions of the United Nations concerning Namibia. He also noted that the Government had not provided a complete and unequivocal clarification of South Africa's policy in regard to self-determination and independence for Namibia envisaged in resolution 323 (1972). In light of the results achieved in the engagement with the Government of South Africa, the Secretary-General asked the Security Council whether the contacts and efforts initiated pursuant to resolutions 309 (1972), 319 (1972) and 323 (1972) should be continued, noting that time and protracted discussion would be required if any progress is to be achieved. The Security Council, in resolution 342 (1973) of 11 December 1973, decided to discontinue further efforts on the basis of resolution 309 (1972) and to terminate the mandate of the Secretary-General's Representative.

3 / Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Namibia

- Mandate start: July 1978
- Mandate end: April 1989
- Mandating body: Security Council
- Mandate decision: resolutions 431 (1978) and 435 (1978)
- First Head of Mission: Mr. Martti Ahtisaari (Finland)

In 1978, the question of Namibia, marked by the continued occupation by South Africa and increasing violence, was considered by various United Nations bodies, including the Security Council and the General Assembly. On 10 April 1978, representatives of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States submitted a proposal to the Security Council based on the view that the key to an internationally acceptable transition to independence was free elections for the whole of Namibia as one political entity with an appropriate United Nations role. They stated that a further resolution would be required in the Council requesting the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations Special Representative whose central task would be to ensure that conditions were established to allow free and fair elections and an impartial electoral process.

The Security Council adopted resolution 431 (1978) on 27 July 1978, whereby it requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for Namibia in order to ensure independence for the country through free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations. In a statement made immediately following the vote,[44] the Secretary-General stated that in keeping with the Council's decision, it was his intention to appoint Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia as his Special Representative for Namibia. Mr. Ahtisaari visited Namibia on 6-22 August and conducted a survey of the arrangements for the implementation of the Council's resolution. He held discussions with the Administrator-General and his staff, as well as the representatives of the Namibian people such as political parties, churches, the business community and individuals, on topics relating to the conditions necessary for the holding of free and fair elections and to the role of the United Nations. The Secretary-General submitted Mr. Ahtisaari's mission report to the Security Council on 29 August 1978. The Council adopted resolution 435 (1978) on 29 September and decided to establish the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) to assist the Special Representative to carry out his mandate.



Secretary-General Visits Angola and Liberia

Angolan President Neto (center) speaking at the reception given on his behalf in honor of the Secretary-General in the garden of the President's official residence on the outskirts of Luanda. To his right is Secretary-General Waldheim. To President Neto's left is Martti Ahtisaari, Special Representative for Namibia. (15 July 1979)

Due to the strong opposition from the Government of South Africa, the Special Representative was unable to fulfil his mandate for multiple years.[45] In December 1988, Angola, Cuba and South Africa signed a tripartite agreement whereby it was agreed that all military forces of South Africa would depart Namibia and that the parties would immediately request the Secretary-General to commence implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).[46] Pursuant to Council resolutions 629 (1989) and 632 (1989), the Special Representative arrived in Windhoek on 31 March 1989, mandated with the supervision and control of free and fair elections in Namibia. The United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) was deployed in April 1989 to assist the Special Representative's work, transitioning the mission into a peacekeeping operation. Namibia, the last remaining colony in Africa, attained its independence on 21 March 1990. The newly independent nation of Namibia was admitted to the United Nations on 23 April 1990 as the 160th Member State.

44. Official records of the 2082nd Security Council meeting, p. 2
45. Report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions 435 (1978) and 439 (1978) concerning the question of Namibia (S/19234), p.5
46. *United Nations Yearbook* 1990, p. 949 - 950

Nepal

1 / United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)

Mandate start: January 2007
Mandate end: January 2011
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1740 (2007)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ian Martin (United Kingdom)

In a letter dated 9 August 2006, the Prime Minister of Nepal informed the Secretary-General that, pursuant to the Eight-Point Understanding between the Seven-Party Alliance and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of 16 June 2006, the Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) requested United Nations assistance to create a free and fair atmosphere for the election of a Constituent Assembly and to support the entire peace process. The requested assistance included: 1) continuing human rights monitoring through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal; 2) assisting in monitoring the code of conduct during the ceasefire; 3) deploying qualified civilian personnel to monitor and verify the confinement of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) combatants and their weapons within designated cantonment areas, with modalities for all arrangements, including arms and munitions, to be worked out among the parties and the United Nations; 4) monitoring the Nepal Army to ensure that it remained in its barracks and that its weapons were not used for or against any side, with modalities to be worked out among the parties and the United Nations; and 5) providing election observation for the election of the Constituent Assembly.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 22 November 2006, the Secretary-General expressed his strong belief that the United Nations should respond positively to the request for assistance. He conveyed his intention to deploy: a technical team to determine the full scope of logistical and security requirements and to develop an integrated concept of operations for a United Nations political mission in Nepal; an advance group of up to 35 civilian monitors to serve as the vanguard for the proposed United Nations monitoring presence; and an initial team of up to 25 electoral personnel to begin providing the required technical advice and support. As noted in a presidential statement of 1 December 2006, the Security Council welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General and agreed that the United Nations should respond positively to the request. In his report of 9 January 2007, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) to support the transformation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) – a ceasefire signed by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) on 21 November 2006 – into a permanent, sustainable peace.

In resolution 1740 (2007) of 23 January 2007, the Security Council welcomed the signing of the CPA, acknowledged the report of the Secretary-General and its recommendations, and noted the request of the signatories for United Nations assistance. It decided to establish UNMIN with a mandate to: a) monitor the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides, in line with the CPA provisions; b) assist the parties through a Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee in implementing their agreement on the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides, as provided for in the CPA; c) assist in the monitoring of the ceasefire arrangements; d) provide technical support for the planning, preparation and conduct of the election of a Constituent Assembly in a free and fair atmosphere, in consultation with the parties; and e) provide a small team of electoral monitors to review all technical aspects of the electoral process and report on the conduct of the election. The Security Council adopted resolution 1909 (2010) on 21 January 2010, which recalled the completion of two phases of the verification process and recognized that some of the elements of UNMIN's mandate had already been accomplished with the successful holding of the Constituent Assembly elections, while calling for a completion of the outstanding aspects of UNMIN's mandate by 15 May 2010. It decided that UNMIN should make necessary arrangements with the Government of Nepal for its withdrawal by 15 May 2010. However, due to outstanding issues related to the peace process, the Government of Nepal requested the extension of UNMIN's mandate through 15 September 2010, which the Secretary-General had also recommended in his report of 28 April 2010. In line with this request and recommendation, the Security Council decided to extend UNMIN's mandate until 15 September 2010. It subsequently extended UNMIN's mandate one final time until 15 January 2011 through resolution 1939 (2010).

On 22 December 2010, the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council that Nepal's peace process was at a crossroads. He noted that prolonged political deadlock that had hampered progress had become a growing concern for Nepalis and the international community alike



Head of UNMIN Addresses Press Conference on Nepal

Karin Landgren, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), addresses a press conference following a Security Council meeting on the situation in that country. (23 July 2009)

as key timelines and deadlines approached. While the Government and the Maoists had agreed in September 2010 that the remaining tasks of the peace process would be largely completed by mid-January 2011, this had proved elusive. The country had remained under a caretaker government for the past six months with the parties unable to agree on the leadership and formation of a new government. It pointed to a number of challenges that remained to the peace process, above all that of promulgating a new constitution and integrating into the security forces or rehabilitating roughly 19,000 Maoist army personnel.



UNMIN Personnel Meet Nepalese Representatives

Civilian and military personnel of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) meet with representatives of the Nepal's Seven-Party Alliance. (11 December 2007)

The Secretary-General noted that UNMIN was set up as a short-term mission, and that its mandate of supporting the electoral process and the monitoring of the management of arms and armies were foreseen as transitional arrangements. He added that with the peace process still incomplete and with uncertain arrangements for supervision, integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel, the optimal conditions for the departure of UNMIN had not yet been attained. However, he stated that it had become quite clear that it made little sense to extend continually UNMIN without any meaningful progress by the parties on political issues. He noted that the United Nations would continue its long-standing support to the search for sustainable peace in Nepal, and that he would follow closely all developments and remain engaged, keeping the Security Council informed as necessary, and that United Nations entities in Nepal would assist the rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel when the time came, as well as lend support to constitution-making and peacebuilding. The mission was thus closed on 15 January 2011.

Nicaragua

1 / United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN)

Mandate start: August 1989
Mandate end: April 1990
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: General Assembly resolution 44/10, following a letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly (A/44/375)
Head of Mission: Mr. Elliot L. Richardson (United States)

In a letter dated 5 April 1989, the Secretary-General informed the President of the General Assembly that he had received a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua referring to the Joint Declaration adopted by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on 14 February 1989. In that Declaration, the President of Nicaragua announced a series of measures, culminating in elections for the offices of President, Vice-President and representatives to the National Assembly, municipalities and the Central American Parliament. The Declaration also stated that international observers, in particular representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, would be invited to be present in all electoral districts during the two designated stages to verify the authenticity of the electoral process.



United Nations Monitors Electoral Process in Nicaragua (February 1990)

After a decade of political turmoil in Central America, a series of regional peace accords were signed by the presidents of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador culminating in the Tela Agreements of August 7, 1989. They asked the United Nations to implement the peace accords. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appointed Elliot Richardson as his Personal Representative for the Verification of the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) and Alvaro de Soto as his Personal Representative for the Central American Peace Process as a whole. This is an unprecedented role for the United Nations, as it has never monitored elections in a sovereign country. The United Nations link the Organization of American States conducted separate but coordinated monitoring efforts in supervising the election process from voter registration and conduct of the campaign to the final tally of votes using radio and satellite networks to link hundreds of impartial international observers throughout Nicaragua.

In a letter dated 6 July 1989, the Secretary-General informed the President of the General Assembly that, after sending several preliminary missions to Nicaragua and holding consultations with the Government, he had decided to establish a United Nations Observer Mission in

Nicaragua. He further stated that he had agreed with the Government of Nicaragua that the Mission mandate would include: verifying the fair representation of political parties in the Supreme Electoral Council and its subsidiary bodies; ensuring that they enjoyed full freedom of organization and mobilization and had equal access to State television and radio in terms of both timing and broadcast duration; ensuring that electoral rolls were properly drawn up; notifying the Supreme Electoral Council or its subsidiary bodies of any complaints received or any irregularities or interference observed in the electoral process; and submitting reports to the Secretary-General, who would, in turn, inform the Supreme Electoral Council as appropriate.



United Nations Monitors Electoral Process in Nicaragua (1990)

In February 1989, the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua delivered a Joint Declaration inviting the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the Organisation of American States to send a group of international observers to verify the electoral process in Nicaragua. Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar decided to establish a United Nations Observer Mission to verify the electoral process in Nicaragua. He appointed Elliot Richardson as his Personal Representative for the Verification of the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN).
Mr. Elliot Richardson (centre) is being interviewed by Ms. Lisa Pilarte, a correspondent for the Associated Press in Managua. On the left is Mr. Iqbal Riza, Chief of the ONUVEN mission. (February 1, 1990)

In resolution 43/24 of 15 November 1988, the General Assembly commended the desire for peace expressed by the Central American Presidents in signing the agreement on Procedures for the Establishment of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America (Esquipulas II) on 7 August 1987 and in issuing the Alajuela Declaration on 16 January 1988, whereby they undertook to fulfil immediately, unconditionally and unilaterally the obligations contained in the Esquipulas II agreement. The General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General afford the fullest possible support to the Central American Governments in their efforts to achieve peace, especially by taking the measures necessary for the development and effective functioning of the essential verification machinery.

The United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN) monitored the preparation and holding of free and fair elections in the country in February 1990 and submitted its final report to the Secretary-General on 30 March 1990.

Sierra Leone

1 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone

Mandate start: February 1995
Mandate end: July 1998
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1995/120) and the President of the Security Council (S/1995/121).
Head of Mission: Mr. Berhanu Dinka (Ethiopia)

In a letter dated 7 February 1995, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that the Head of State of Sierra Leone had formally requested his good offices to facilitate negotiations between the Government and Revolutionary United Front (RUF) forces in his country. He noted that an exploratory mission he had dispatched to Sierra Leone to initiate consultations had observed a serious deterioration in the situation due to the three-year conflict, with about 10 per cent of the population living as refugees in neighbouring countries, at least 30 per cent internally displaced, vital infrastructure destroyed, three quarters of the national budget allocated to defence, and a conflict that, if prolonged, could complicate peace efforts in Liberia and have a broader destabilizing effect on the region.

The Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Berhanu Dinka of Ethiopia as his Special Envoy for Sierra Leone. The Special Envoy worked with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to negotiate a settlement to the conflict and to return the country to civilian rule. As noted in a presidential statement of the Security Council on 19 March 1996, parliamentary and presidential elections took place in Sierra Leone in February 1996, but the RUF did not participate and refused to recognize the results, which led to the continuation of the conflict. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 7 October 1997, the Secretary-General reported that a peace agreement between the Government and the RUF had finally been reached in November 1996, but that the agreement had been derailed by another military coup d'état in May 1997.

In response to the second coup, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Francis G. Okelo of Uganda as his Special Envoy for Sierra Leone and, on 8 October 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1132 (1997), imposing an oil and arms embargo on the military junta and their adult family members in Sierra Leone and authorizing ECOWAS to ensure its implementation through its Military Observer Group (ECOMOG). In July 1998, the Security Council created the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), a peacekeeping operation, to help facilitate peace. The Secretary-General named Special Envoy Okelo as his Special Representative and Chief of Mission of UNOMSIL.

Sierra Leone

2 / Panel of Experts on Sierra Leone Diamonds and Arms

Mandate start: July 2000
Mandate end: December 2000
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1306 (2000)

In a report of 19 May 2000, the Secretary-General noted that the overall situation in Sierra Leone was tense and critical, and that the deliberate and unprovoked attacks by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) fighters on United Nations peacekeepers and the detention of large numbers of United Nations personnel were unacceptable acts that had been unequivocally condemned by the international community. He proposed that the Security Council consider strengthening the sanctions regime, including through measures to prevent RUF commanders from reaping the benefits of their illegal exploitation of mineral resources, in particular diamonds.

On 5 July 2000, the Security Council adopted resolution 1306 (2000), expressing its concern about the role that the illicit trade in diamonds played in fueling the conflict in Sierra Leone, and about reports that such diamonds were transiting to neighbouring countries, including Liberia. The Council decided that all States should take the necessary measures to prohibit the direct and indirect import of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone into their territories. It requested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, establish a five-member panel of experts for an initial period of four months. The panel was mandated to: collect information on possible violations of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1171 (1998); examine the links between the diamond trade and the trade in arms and related materiel; and consider the adequacy of air traffic control systems in the region. The Secretary-General established the Panel of Experts on 2 August 2000.

The Panel of Experts submitted its report to the Security Council on 20 December 2000, containing detailed information on diamond trade in Sierra Leone, how it was related to conflict dynamics, while assessing the certification system. It put forward a number of recommendations for consideration of the Security Council, including a complete embargo on all diamonds from Liberia until it stopped the trafficking of arms to, or diamonds from, Sierra Leone, and on the need for major trading centres for diamonds across the world to reach agreement on the recording and documentation of rough diamond imports. The Panel also made recommendations on weapons and the use of aircraft for sanctions-busting and the movement of illicit weapons.

3 / United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)

Mandate start: August 2005
Mandate end: August 2008
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1620 (2005)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Victor da Silva Ângelo (Portugal)

In a report dated 28 July 2005, the Secretary-General noted that after the termination of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), a peacekeeping operation, at the end of 2005, a strong United Nations system presence would be needed in Sierra Leone to continue to build peace by enhancing political and economic governance and the national capacity for conflict prevention. Following extensive consultations with the Government of Sierra Leone, as well as other national and international stakeholders, he recommended the deployment of a modestly sized United Nations integrated office as a successor mission to UNAMSIL.

By adopting resolution 1620 (2005) on 31 August 2005, the Security Council established the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), with a mandate to assist the Government in: building the capacity of State institutions; developing a national action plan for human rights and establishing a national human rights commission; building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission; enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability of public institutions; strengthening the rule of law; strengthening the security sector of Sierra Leone; promoting a culture of peace, dialogue and participation; and developing initiatives for the protection and well-being of youth, women and children. UNIOSIL was also mandated to: liaise with the security sector of Sierra Leone; work together with United Nations missions and offices, as well as regional organizations in West Africa, in addressing cross-border challenges, such as the illicit movement of small arms, human trafficking, smuggling and illegal trade in natural resources; and coordinate with the Special Court for Sierra Leone. In resolution 1793 (2007) of 31 December 2007, the Security Council commended the contribution of UNIOSIL to the recovery of Sierra Leone from conflict and to the country's peace, security and development. The Council decided that UNIOSIL would be succeeded by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) on 4 August 2008 (see below).

Sierra Leone

4 / United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL)

- Mandate start: August 2008
- Mandate end: March 2014
- Mandating body: Security Council
- Mandate decision: resolution 1829 (2008)
- First Head of Mission: Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg (Germany)

In resolution 1793 (2007) dated 31 December 2007, the Security Council welcomed the adoption of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, highlighting five priority areas in the peace consolidation process to be addressed by the Government of Sierra Leone with the support of the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations system, and bilateral and multinational partners. The Council expressed its intention to establish a United Nations integrated political office to focus on carrying forward the peacebuilding process, mobilizing international donor support, supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and Fund, and completing any residual tasks left over by the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), which it was to replace (see above). Those tasks included promoting national reconciliation and supporting the constitutional reform process. The Council requested that the Secretary-General submit specific proposals on the mandate, structure and strength of the successor office.

The Secretary-General submitted the requested proposals in his report of 29 April 2008, after which the Security Council adopted resolution 1829 (2008), welcoming the recommendations and establishing the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The Office was mandated to support the Government of Sierra Leone by: a) providing political support to national and local efforts for identifying and resolving tensions and threats of potential conflict; b) monitoring and promoting human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, including efforts to counter transnational organized crime and drug trafficking; c) consolidating good governance reforms, with a special focus on anti-corruption instruments such as the Anti-Corruption Commission; d) supporting decentralization and reviewing the 1991 Constitution as well as the enactment of relevant legislation; and e) closely coordinating with and supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework and projects supported through the Peacebuilding Fund. UNIPSIL completed its mandate on 31 March 2014 and transferred its responsibilities to the UN Country Team.



Secretary-General Briefed by Executive Representative for UNIOSIL

Secretary-General Kofi Annan (second from left) receives a briefing from Mr. J. Victor Angelo, Executive Representative for United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (third from right). (3 July 2006)

Somalia

1 / United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

Mandate start: April 1995
Mandate end: June 2013
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: presidential statement (S/PRST/1995/15)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Abdul Hamid Kabia (Sierra Leone)

In a report dated 28 March 1995, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, following the withdrawal of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), he would continue to make available his good offices to assist the Somali factions in arriving at a political settlement and would maintain a political presence in the area for this purpose. He also informed the Council that the size and mandate of that presence would depend on whether the Somali factions wished the United Nations to play a facilitating or mediating role and were ready to cooperate with it.



UNPOS moved back to Somalia in January 2012

Mr. Augustine Mahiga (at podium, right), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), held a joint press conference with Somali Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali (at podium, left), shortly after arriving in Mogadishu in January 2012.

Thanks to significant security improvements within Mogadishu, Mr. Mahiga and UNPOS moved permanently to the Somali capital from neighbouring Kenya, marking the first time in seventeen years that the UN established a full-time in-country presence in Somalia. (24 January 2012)

On 6 April 1995, the Security Council issued a presidential statement welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to continue a small political mission. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) worked to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation through contacts with Somali leaders, civic organizations, and concerned states and organizations, while also providing political guidance to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations Agencies and the United Nations Country Team for Somalia. UNPOS fulfilled its mandate on 2 June 2013 and was replaced by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM).

2 / Panel of Experts on Somalia

Mandate start: July 2002
Mandate end: October 2003
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1425 (2002)

In resolution 1407 (2002) dated 3 May 2002, the Security Council noted with serious concern that the continued flow of weapons and ammunition supplies to Somalia from other countries was undermining peace and security, as well as the political efforts for national reconciliation in Somalia. The Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a two-person team of experts for a period of 30 days to develop an action plan for the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992). The plan was to detail the resources and expertise that the Panel of Experts would need to generate independent information on embargo violations and for improving the enforcement of the embargo on weapons and military equipment established by paragraph 5 of resolution 733 (1992).

In a report submitted through the Chair of the Committee, the team of experts recommended that the Panel of Experts consist of at least three persons, be based in Nairobi, Kenya, and be provided with administrative support in Nairobi and New York. Subsequently, on 22 July 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1425 (2002), requesting that the Secretary-General establish the Panel for a period of six months, with adequate expertise in the areas of armament and financing thereof, civil aviation, maritime transport, and regional affairs, as a means of generating independent information on violations of the arms embargo and as a step towards giving effect to and strengthening the embargo. In its final report, submitted to the Committee on 27 October 2003, the Panel recommended that the arms embargo should continue but monitoring was critical to ensure its effectiveness.

3 / Monitoring Group on Somalia

Mandate start: December 2003
Mandate end: December 2009
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1519 (2003)

In resolution 1519 (2003) of 16 December 2003, the Security Council reiterated its firm support for the Somali National Reconciliation Process and the ongoing Somali National Reconciliation Conference, commending the efforts of Kenya as the host of the Conference, which was sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). It expressed serious concern over the continued flow of weapons and ammunition supplies to and through Somalia from sources outside the country, in contravention of the arms embargo established under resolution 733 (1992).

It also requested that the Secretary-General establish a Nairobi-based Monitoring Group composed of up to four experts, with a mandate focused on ongoing arms embargo violations, including transfers of ammunition, single-use weapons and small arms. The Group was tasked with: a) investigating violations involving access to Somalia by land, air and sea; b) detailing information and making specific recommendations related to violations and measures to give effect to and strengthen implementation of the arms embargo; c) carrying out field-based investigations in Somalia and other States; and d) assessing the progress made by States in the region in implementing the arms embargo, including through a review of national customs and border control regimes.

On 22 January 2004, the Secretary-General informed the Council of the appointments of four experts. The Council subsequently expanded the mandate of the Monitoring Group: resolution 1844 (2008) of 20 November 2008 requested the Group also to provide information relevant to the listing and delisting of individuals, and resolution 1907 (2009) of 23 December 2009 tasked the Group with covering new measures against Eritrea as well (see Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group below).

4 / United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)

Renamed as the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) after November 2024

- Mandate start: June 2013
- Mandate end: ongoing
- Mandating body: Security Council
- Mandate decision: resolution 2102 (2013)
- First Head of Mission: Mr. Nicholas Kay (United Kingdom)

In resolution 2093 (2013), the Security Council commended the contribution of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, noting its critical role in improving the security situation in Mogadishu and other areas of south-central Somalia, including Kismayo. The Council also underlined the importance of capacity-building of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, whose commitment to peace, stability and reconciliation it welcomed. The Council further agreed with the Secretary-General that the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) had fulfilled its mandate and should be replaced by a new special political mission (see above).

On 29 April 2013, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council of his intention to appoint Mr. Nicholas Kay as his Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the new mission in Somalia. The Council established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) by adopting resolution 2102 (2013) on 2 May 2013. UNSOM was mandated to: provide good offices functions to support the peace and reconciliation process of the Federal Government of Somalia; offer policy advice on peacebuilding and state-building in the areas of governance, security sector reform and the rule of law; support the development of a federal system, constitutional review and democratization; assist in the coordination of international donor support; help build capacity in the areas of protection of human rights and rule of law; and support preparations for elections at the national and local levels.



Head of UNSOM Visits with Leaders in Mogadishu

Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Mr. Nicholas Kay (centre), walks with the Mayor of Mogadishu, Mr. Hassan Mohamed Mungab (centre left), and members of his delegation, through the streets of the capital city. (25 June 2014)

In resolution 2753 (2024) of 30 October 2024, the Security Council renamed UNSOM as the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS). It decided that UNTMIS would carry out the formal transition of its functions to the United Nations Country Team, with the first of two anticipated phases covering the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025 and the second phase ending by 31 October 2026.

5 / Panel of Experts on Somalia

- Mandate start: November 2018
- Mandate end: December 2023
- Mandating body: Security Council
- Mandate decision: resolution 2444 (2018)

In resolution 2444 (2018) of 14 November 2018, the Security Council commended efforts towards peace, stability and reconciliation in the Horn of Africa, including the signing of the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia on 9 July 2018, the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between Ethiopia, Somalia, and Eritrea on 5 September 2018, and the Agreement on Peace, Friendship, and Comprehensive Cooperation between Eritrea and Ethiopia on 16 September 2018. It also welcomed the meeting between the President of Djibouti and the President of Eritrea in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 17 September 2018, underlining the importance of continuing efforts towards the normalization of relations between the two countries.

With the adoption of the resolution, the Council lifted the arms embargo, the travel ban, the asset freeze and targeted sanctions imposed on Eritrea; terminated the mandate of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (see below); and established the Panel of Experts on Somalia. The Council mandated the Panel to monitor the implementation of sanction measures on Somalia, including targeted and territorial arms embargoes, asset freeze measures, travel bans and a charcoal ban. In response to evolving security challenges, the Council adopted resolution 2498 (2019), which further mandated the Panel of Experts to monitor compliance with restrictions on components that could be used in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices in Somalia. In December 2023, the Security Council renamed the group as the Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023).

6 / Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023)

Mandate start: December 2023
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2713 (2023)

In resolution 2662 (2022) of 17 November 2022, the Security Council underscored that the focus of the sanctions regime in Somalia was on Al-Shabaab by renaming the relevant sanctions organ the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Al-Shabaab. In 2023, the Council lifted the territorial arms embargo in relation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia and the national security forces of Somalia, although some arms control measures remained in place in relation to the federal member states of Somalia. The Panel of Experts on Somalia was renamed the Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023). The Council extended the Panel's mandate to 13 January 2026 via resolution 2776 (2025).

Somalia and Eritrea

1 / Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG)

Mandate start: March 2010
Mandate end: November 2018
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1916 (2010)

Security Council resolution 1907 (2009) of 23 December 2009 decided to impose sanctions on Eritrea, expressing concern at reports of the Monitoring Group on Somalia that Eritrea was providing support to armed groups engaged in undermining peace and security in Somalia, and noting with concern the unresolved border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea. The Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) became operational the following year, pursuant to resolution 1916 (2010) of 19 March 2010, in which the Security Council decided to expand the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Somalia to monitor and report on the measure in paragraph 15 of resolution 1907 (2009). Its tasks included monitoring and reporting regarding entities and individuals who: a) violated the arms embargo; b) provided support from Eritrea to armed opposition groups aiming to destabilize the region; c) obstructed the implementation of resolution 1862 (2009) concerning Djibouti; d) harboured, financed, facilitated, supported, organized, trained or incited individuals or groups to perpetrate acts of violence or terrorist acts against other States or their citizens in the region; and e) obstructed the investigations or work of the Group. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 1 July 2010, the Secretary-General confirmed that he had appointed experts to the Group for a period of 12 months. The Security Council adopted resolution 2444 (2018) on 14 November 2018, welcomed the improvement of bilateral relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia as well as between Eritrea and Somalia, and recognized that the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group during the course of its current and four previous mandates had not found conclusive evidence that Eritrea was supporting armed groups. The Council decided to lift the measures it had imposed on Eritrea pursuant to the above resolution, and to terminate the mandate of SEMG and establish a Panel of Experts on Somalia.

South Africa

1 / Group of Experts on South Africa

Mandate start: December 1963
Mandate end: April 1964
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 182 (1963)

On 7 August 1963, the Security Council adopted resolution 181 (1963), calling upon the Government of South Africa to abandon the policies of apartheid and discrimination, and to liberate all persons imprisoned, interned or subject to other restrictions for having opposed the policy of apartheid. It solemnly called upon all States to cease forthwith the sale and shipment of arms, ammunition and all types of military vehicles to South Africa. Further to this resolution, on 11 October 1963, the Secretary-General informed the Council that he had drawn the attention of Member States to the resolution, requesting that they report to him on any relevant actions taken and proposed by their Governments, and that 44 Members had replied to his letter.

In resolution 182 (1963) of 4 December 1963, the Council noted the replies to the Secretary-General's communication to the Member States. The Council also documented that the Government of South Africa was failing to comply with resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It requested that the Secretary-General establish, under his direction and reporting to him, a small group of recognized experts to examine methods of resolving the situation in South Africa through the full, peaceful and orderly application of human rights and fundamental freedoms to all inhabitants, regardless of race, colour or creed, and to consider what part the United Nations might play in the achievement of that end.

The Group of Experts on South Africa submitted its final report to the Security Council in April 1964, ahead of time, due to the rapidly increasing gravity of the situation in South Africa. The Group considered that all efforts should be directed toward the establishment of a National Convention, fully representative of the whole population of South Africa, to set a new course for the future. To this end, the Group put forward suggestions concerning the establishment of such a National Convention, the assistance which the United Nations and other international organizations could offer to the people of South Africa, and the means to concert pressure on the South African Government to accept a peaceful and democratic solution.

2 / Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Africa

Mandate start: July 1992
Mandate end: August 1992
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 765 (1992)
Head of Mission: Mr. Cyrus Vance (United States)

In resolution 765 (1992) of 16 July 1992, the Security Council expressed grave concern over escalating violence in South Africa, which was causing significant loss of human life and having serious consequences for negotiations aimed at creating a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa. The Council noted that the continuation of this violence would seriously jeopardize peace and security in the region and recalled the Declaration on Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by consensus by the General Assembly at its sixteenth special session on 14 December 1989, which called for negotiations in South Africa to take place in an environment free of violence. It strongly urged the South African authorities to take immediate measures to bring an effective end to the ongoing violence and to ensure that those responsible were brought to justice.

The Council called upon the Secretary-General to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a Special Representative for South Africa to recommend measures, after discussions with the parties, to assist in bringing an effective end to the violence and in establishing conditions for negotiations leading to a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Cyrus Vance, former United States Secretary of State, as his Special Representative to South Africa. Mr. Vance visited South Africa from 21 to 31 July 1992 and held discussions with the Government, representatives of all major parties, key politicians, church groups, business and trade union organizations, and leaders of structures set up by the National Peace Accord. On 7 August 1992, the Secretary-General submitted the report on Mr. Vance's mission to the Security Council.

3 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for South Africa

Mandate start: September 1992
Mandate end: December 1992
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 772 (1992)
Heads of Mission: Mr. Virendra Dayal (India) and Mr. Tom Vraalsen (Norway)

In a report on the mission of his Special Representative for South Africa dated 7 August 1992, the Secretary-General stated that for the Security Council to discharge its function, it must have regular, impartial and objective information until a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa was established. Accordingly, he proposed that similar missions be undertaken on a quarterly basis or more frequently, if necessary, with reports provided to the Council. The Security Council endorsed the proposal in resolution 772 (1992) of 17 August 1992.

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 772 (1992), the Secretary-General submitted a report on 22 December 1992, noting that, following consultations with the Government of South Africa and the parties, he had appointed two Special Envoys who subsequently carried out separate missions to South Africa, from 16 to 27 September and from 22 November to 9 December 1992. They met with high-level government officials and leaders of political parties, as well as with officials of the National Peace Committee and Secretariat; representatives of non-governmental organizations and civic, religious, business, human rights and community groups; and other international observer teams. The Secretary-General incorporated the mission findings into the report.

4 / United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA)

Mandate start: August 1992
Mandate end: June 1994
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolutions 772 (1992) and 894 (1994)
Head of Mission: Ms. Angela E.V. King (Jamaica)

In his report of 7 August 1992, the Secretary-General noted a transformation taking place in South Africa as its leaders and people strove to create a democratic, non-racial and united society. He also mentioned South African interlocutors' requests urging the United Nations to dispatch monitors for various purposes. He proposed that, given the mechanisms already established by the National Peace Accord, to which all parties had agreed, the wisest course of action at that stage would be to strengthen and reinforce those mechanisms, thereby enhancing the capacity of indigenous structures that could play a major role in the building of peace, both in the present and in the future. Accordingly, he recommended that the United Nations make available some 30 observers to serve in South Africa, in close association with the National Peace Secretariat, to further the purposes of the Accord. These observers would be stationed in agreed-upon locations, in various parts of South Africa. As necessary, their number could be supplemented by other appropriate international organizations, such as the British Commonwealth, the European Community or the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In resolution 772 (1992) of 17 August 1992, the Security Council expressed its determination to assist the people of South Africa in their legitimate struggle for a non-racial, democratic society, and recognized the expectation of the people of South Africa that the United Nations would help remove all obstacles to the resumption of negotiations to that end. It also acknowledged the need to strengthen and reinforce the local mechanisms established under the National Peace Accord to enhance their capacity to build peace, both at the time and in the future. The Council authorized the Secretary-General to urgently deploy United Nations observers in South Africa, in the necessary numbers and manner, in coordination with the structures set up under the National Peace Accord.

Soon thereafter, the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) was established, and the first group of observers arrived in September 1992. The Secretary-General appointed Ms. Angela King as Chief of Mission. By the end of 1993, the Security Council had authorized the deployment of some 50 observers in the country. Taking into account the progress in the multi-party negotiations, the Security Council increased their number to approximately 100 to observe and support the enhanced United Nations role in the electoral process in South Africa. UNOMSA, with offices in Durban and Johannesburg, operated in all provinces from September 1992 until 27 June 1994.

The Observer Mission cooperated and coordinated its work with the structures set up under the National Peace Accord, particularly the National Peace Committee, the National Peace Secretariat, and the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation. The mission also coordinated with the observer teams of the British Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Community and the OAU. The first national election of South Africa was held on 27 April 1994, with universal adult suffrage. Upon the election of Nelson Mandela and the establishment of a democratic, non-racial and united Government of South Africa, the Security Council adopted resolution 930 (1994), terminating UNOMSA on 27 June 1994.

South Sudan

1 / Panel of Experts on South Sudan

Mandate start: March 2015
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2206 (2015)

In resolution 2206 (2015) of 3 March 2015, the Security Council expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, including the loss of life, displacement of two million people and destruction of property. The Council condemned ongoing human rights violations and abuses by all parties, including targeted killings, sexual violence, child recruitment, arbitrary detention and attacks on civilians, schools, hospitals and United Nations personnel. It emphasized the responsibility of the Government of South Sudan to protect its population from genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Council expressed concern over the large-scale displacement and worsening humanitarian situation and commended efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies to assist the population.

The Security Council endorsed the cessation of hostilities (CoH) agreements signed by the Government of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) on 23 January, 6 May and 9 May 2014, while condemning both parties' failure to honour their commitments, particularly violations documented by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. It demanded the immediate implementation of the CoH agreements, including the withdrawal of foreign forces; called for prohibiting violations of international law; and demanded immediate humanitarian access.

The Security Council resolution also imposed a travel ban and assets freeze on individuals or entities responsible for or complicit in actions or policies that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan. Further, the resolution established a Panel of Experts mandated to provide information regarding potential designations; gather and analyse information on the implementation of sanction measures; and provide information regarding arms flows and related materiel. In resolution 2428 (2018), the Council requested the Committee to monitor compliance with the arms embargo imposed on South Sudan. The Panel's mandate has been renewed on a regular basis, including by resolution 2781 (2025), which extended it until 1 July 2026.

Sudan

1 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Sudan

Mandate start: February 1996
Mandate end: March 1996
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1996/92) and the President of the Security Council (S/1996/93), pursuant to Security Council resolution 1044 (1996)
Head of Mission: Mr. Chinmaya R. Gharekhan (India)

In resolution 1044 (1996), dated 3 January 1996, the Security Council condemned the terrorist assassination attempt on the life of the President of Egypt in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26 June 1995, and strongly deplored the flagrant violation of the sovereignty and integrity of Ethiopia, as well as the attempt to disturb the peace and security of Ethiopia and the region as a whole. The Council noted that the Third Extraordinary Session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held on 11 September 1995, considered the attack to have been aimed not only at the President of Egypt and the sovereignty, integrity and stability of Ethiopia, but also at Africa as a whole.

The Council called upon the Government of Sudan to comply with OAU requests for the immediate extradition to Ethiopia for prosecution of the three suspects, who were sheltering in Sudan and who were wanted in connection with the assassination attempt, on the basis of the 1964 Extradition Treaty between Ethiopia and Sudan; to desist from engaging in activities that assist, support or facilitate terrorist activities; to cease providing shelter and sanctuary to terrorist elements; and to act in its relations with its neighbours and others in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the OAU.

The Council further requested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the OAU, seek the cooperation of the Government of Sudan in the implementation of the resolution and to report to the Council within 60 days. On 8 February 1996, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General reported that he had chosen Under-Secretary-General Chinmaya R. Gharekhan as his Special Envoy. During his mission, from 18 February to 2 March 1996, the Special Envoy held consultations with the OAU Secretary-General in Addis Ababa and met with authorities in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Tunisia and Uganda. On 11 March 1996, the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council on the mission's findings.

Sudan

2 / United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS)

Mandate start: June 2004
Mandate end: March 2005
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1547 (2004)
Head of Mission: Mr. Jan Pronk (the Netherlands)

In a presidential statement dated 10 October 2003, the Security Council welcomed the agreement on security arrangements reached in Naivasha, Kenya, between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) on 25 September 2003. Referring to the Machakos Protocol as a viable basis for resolving the conflict in Sudan through a comprehensive peace agreement, the Council commended the continuation of the ceasefire and the establishment of the Verification and Monitoring Team, the Joint Monitoring Commission, and the Civilian Protection Monitoring Team. It encouraged Member States in a position to do so to contribute financial and logistical resources.

In this connection, the Council requested that the Secretary-General initiate preparatory work, in consultation with the parties, facilitators of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the international observers, on how the United Nations could best support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement. In his report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General submitted proposals for the establishment of an advance team in Sudan, which would be tasked with: preparing for the international monitoring foreseen in the agreement on security arrangements; facilitating contact with the parties concerned; and preparing for the introduction of a peace support operation following the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement.

In resolution 1547 (2004) of 11 June 2004, the Security Council welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals on Sudan and requested that he take the necessary preparatory steps – particularly in terms of pre-positioning critical logistical requirements and personnel – to facilitate the rapid deployment of a possible operation to assist the parties in monitoring and verifying compliance with the terms of a peace agreement, as well as to prepare for the Organization's role during the transitional period in Sudan. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Jan Pronk as his Special Representative for Sudan and Head of the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS). Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement by the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A on 9 January 2005, the Security Council adopted resolution 1590 (2005), establishing the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), a peacekeeping operation to succeed UNAMIS.

3 / Panel of Experts on the Sudan

Mandate start: March 2005
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1591 (2005)

In resolution 1556 (2004) of 30 July 2004, the Security Council condemned all acts of violence and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by all parties to the crisis in Darfur, particularly by 'janjaweed' militias, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians, rapes, forced displacements and acts of violence, especially those with an ethnic dimension. The Council expressed its utmost concern at the consequences of the conflict on the civilian population, including women, children, internally displaced persons and refugees. It noted with concern that up to 200,000 refugees had fled to Chad, placing a serious burden on the country, and expressed concern about cross-border incursions by the militias.

The Council called upon the Government of Sudan to respect human rights, maintain law and order, and protect its population, emphasizing that all parties must adhere to international humanitarian law. It urged all parties to prevent and end violations, underlining that there would be no impunity for violators. It welcomed the Government of Sudan's commitment to investigate atrocities, prosecute those responsible and mobilize its armed forces to disarm the 'janjaweed' militias. It also took note of the agreement between the Governments of Sudan and Chad to establish a joint mechanism to secure the borders.

The Council decided that all States would impose an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the states of North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur, including the 'janjaweed' militias. In resolution 1591 (2005) of 29 March 2005, the Council established a Panel of Experts to assist the dedicated Security Council Committee in monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo, as well as a travel ban and asset freeze imposed in relation to violence in the Darfur region. The Panel's mandate includes reporting on the implementation of the measures, providing information regarding individuals who may meet the designation criteria, and assisting the Committee in refining and updating information on the list of individuals subject to the sanction measures. The mandate has been renewed on a regular basis, including by resolution 2772 (2025). In resolution 2676 (2023), the Security Council introduced a "sunset clause" by which the sanctions measures expire each year unless renewed. On 12 September 2025, the Security Council adopted resolution 2791 (2025) renewing the sanctions measures and extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 12 October 2026.

Sudan

4 / Panel of the Secretary-General on the Referenda in the Sudan

Mandate start: September 2010
Mandate end: July 2011
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2010/491) and the President of the Security Council (S/2010/492)
Head of Mission: Mr. Benjamin Mkapa (Tanzania)

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement – signed by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) on 9 January 2005 – provided for international monitoring of planned referendum processes. In line with these provisions, the parties to the Agreement requested that the United Nations establish a referendum-monitoring mission to increase confidence in the processes.

In response, the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council that he had decided to establish a three-member Panel to monitor and assess the referendum processes for Southern Sudan and the Abyei area, including the political and security situation on the ground. The panel was prepared to engage the parties at the appropriate level to take any corrective measures and, in close consultation with the Secretary-General, issue public statements on the referendums. Reporting to the Secretary-General through the then Department of Political Affairs, the Panel was supported by field reporting officers, their coordinators and other liaison officers located in Northern and Southern Sudan. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to head the Panel. The other members were Mr. António Monteiro, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, and Mr. Bhojraj Pokharel, former Chair of the Election Commission of Nepal.

In a report dated 12 April 2011, the Secretary-General stated that the three-member Panel had found that the Southern Sudan referendum, held on 9–15 January 2011, reflected the free will of the people and that the process as a whole was free, fair and credible. The Referendum Commission issued the final results on 7 February: 98.83 per cent voted in favour of independence. With this, the Panel considered its mandate completed in Southern Sudan and to be held in abeyance in Abyei.

5 / United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS)

Mandate start: June 2020
Mandate end: December 2023
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2524 (2020)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Volker Perthes (Germany)

In a letter dated 27 February 2020, the Prime Minister of Sudan informed the Secretary-General that to achieve the goals of the transitional period and fulfill the aspirations of the Sudanese people, his Government requested United Nations support in a number of areas. In resolution 2524 (2020) of 3 June 2020, the Security Council welcomed the signing of the Constitutional Document on 17 August 2019 for the establishment of a new civilian-led transitional government and institutions in Sudan. It also applauded the steps taken to implement the Constitutional Document, called on all stakeholders to remain committed to the transition and reaffirmed its readiness to support Sudan. Having taken note of the request of the Government of Sudan, the Council decided to establish the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) with the following objectives: a) to assist the political transition, progress toward democratic governance, human rights protection and sustainable peace; b) to support peace processes and implementation of future peace agreements; c) to assist peacebuilding, civilian protection and the rule of law, particularly in Darfur and the Two Areas; and d) to support the mobilization of economic and development assistance and the coordination of humanitarian aid.

On 16 November 2023, the Government of Sudan requested the termination of the UNITAMS mandate. Through resolution 2715 (2023), the Council formally terminated the mandate of UNITAMS as of 3 December 2023 and requested that the transfer of UNITAMS tasks to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes be completed by 29 February 2024, to the extent possible.



United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)

Volker Perthes, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) speaks with Nazil Tirik, the Hadendawa leader during the AU-IGAD-UN Trilateral Mechanism's trip to Kassala in November. Credit: UN Photo/UNITAMS

6 / Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan

Mandate start: January 2025
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2715 (2023)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ramtane Lamamra (Algeria)

Following the outbreak of violence in Sudan and the termination of the UNITAMS mandate, on 21 November 2023, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Mr. Ramtane Lamamra as his Personal Envoy for Sudan to lead United Nations efforts for peace and dialogue. In its resolution 2715 (2023), adopted on 1 December 2023, the Security Council expressed alarm at the continued violence and humanitarian situation in Sudan, particularly violations of international humanitarian law and grave human rights violations and abuses. The Council welcomed the appointment of the Personal Envoy to use his good offices with the parties and neighboring States, complementing regional peace efforts, including those of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and called on all parties to extend their cooperation in furtherance of his tasks.

The Council reiterated its support for the Personal Envoy in resolution 2724 (2024) and, in resolution 2736 (2024), called on the conflict parties to avail themselves of the assistance of the Personal Envoy and the African Union High-Level Panel on Sudan in seeking an immediate cessation of hostilities, with a view to securing a sustainable resolution to the conflict, through dialogue. The Council encouraged the coordinated engagement of the Personal Envoy with the African Union, the League of Arab States and other key regional actors to help advance peace and an inclusive, comprehensive Sudanese-led political process, with the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women, reflecting the aspirations of the Sudanese people.



Deputy Secretary-General Meets Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan

Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro (right) meets with Haile Menkerios, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan. (26 April 2012)

Sudan and South Sudan

1 / Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan

Mandate start: August 2011
Mandate end: October 2018
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2011/474) and the President of the Security Council (S/2011/475)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Haile Menkerios (South Africa)

In resolution 1997 (2011) of 11 July 2011, the Security Council took note of a letter dated 27 May 2011 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sudan to the Secretary-General, announcing the decision of the Government of Sudan to terminate the presence of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), a peacekeeping operation on 9 July 2011 when its mandate period was set to conclude. The Council emphasized the need for the orderly withdrawal of UNMIS as of the end of the mandate and called upon the Secretary-General to complete the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian UNMIS personnel, other than those required for the mission's liquidation, by 31 August 2011.

On 29 July 2011, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Mr. Haile Menkerios as his Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. The Special Envoy was tasked with assisting the parties to reach a negotiated settlement to residual Comprehensive Peace Agreement and post-secession issues. On 2 May 2012, the Security Council, in resolution 2046 (2012), decided that Sudan and South Sudan were to unconditionally resume negotiations to reach agreement on several critical issues, including arrangements concerning oil, the status of nationals of one country resident in the other, the status of the disputed and claimed border areas and the demarcation of the border; and the final status of Abyei Area.

The Special Envoy worked closely with and in support of the efforts by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) in assisting the parties to reach a negotiated settlement to the residual Agreement and post-secession issues. A key step in this process was the signing by Sudan and South Sudan on 27 September 2012 of nine cooperation framework agreements. The Special Envoy also supported regional efforts to resolve the crisis in South Sudan in 2013, which led to the signing by the belligerent parties of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan in 2015.

The mandate of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan was subsumed into the mandate of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa in October 2018.

Syria

1 / Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria

Mandate start: February 2012
Mandate end: July 2014
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 66/253
Head of Mission: Mr. Kofi Annan (Ghana)



UN-LAS Special Envoy Meets with Syrian President

Mr. Kofi Annan (centre left), Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, meets with Bashar Al-Assad (centre right), President of the Syrian Arab Republic, in Damascus. Also at the meeting is Major General Robert Mood (left of Mr. Annan), Chief Military Observer and Head of the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) and Walid Al-Moualem (right of Mr. Al-Assad), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Syria. (5 June 2012)

In resolution 66/253 of 16 February 2012, the General Assembly expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Syria, particularly the continued, widespread human rights violations and the use of violence by Syrian authorities against the civilian population. Welcoming the engagement of the Secretary-General and ongoing diplomatic efforts to end the crisis, the Assembly expressed full support for the decision of the League of Arab States of 22 January 2012 to facilitate a Syrian-led political transition towards a democratic and pluralistic political system – one in which all citizens are equal regardless of affiliation, ethnicity or creed. It specifically applauded the initiation of serious political dialogue between the Government of Syria and the full spectrum of the Syrian opposition under the auspices of the League of Arab States and in accordance with its proposed timetable. The Assembly also requested that the Secretary-General and all relevant United Nations bodies support the efforts of the League of Arab States, both through good offices – including the appointment of a special envoy – and through the provision of technical and material assistance, in consultation with the League.

On 23 February, the United Nations Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States appointed Mr. Kofi Annan as Joint Special Envoy to Syria. The Envoy was mandated to support the political dialogue by consulting broadly, engage with all relevant interlocutors within and outside Syria to end the violence and the humanitarian crisis, and facilitate a peaceful Syrian-led, inclusive political solution in line with the democratic aspirations of the Syrian people through a comprehensive political dialogue between the Syrian Government and the whole spectrum of the Syrian opposition. In resolution 2042 (2012) of 14 April 2012, the Security Council endorsed a six-point plan proposed by the Envoy and expressed its intention to establish a peacekeeping operation – the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) – upon the cessation of hostilities. In resolution 2043 (2012) of 21 April 2012, the Council decided to establish UNSMIS to monitor and support the plan's implementation.

On 2 August, referring to the lack of progress in the implementation of the six-point plan and lack of international unity to support it, Mr. Annan resigned his position. On 17 August, following consultations with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi of Algeria to fill the post, which was reframed as the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria. In 2014, the Joint Special Representative was succeeded by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (see below).



Geneva II Conference on Syria Begins with High-Level Segment

Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, speaks to a representative from the Syrian Government delegation at the high-level segment of the Geneva II Conference on Syria, taking place in Montreux, Switzerland. Both the Syrian Government and the opposition are attending the international conference, which aims to end the nearly three-year-old civil war in Syria. (22 January 2014)

2 / Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

Mandate start: July 2014
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 66/253
First Head of Mission: Mr. Staffan de Mistura (Italy)

The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/253 of 16 February 2012, which requested that the Secretary-General and all relevant United Nations bodies support the efforts of the League of Arab States aimed at promoting a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis. The resolution encouraged the use of good offices, including through the appointment of a Special Envoy, and the provision of technical and material assistance, in consultation with the League of Arab States.

In resolution 2254 (2015) of 18 December 2015, the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General, through his good offices and the efforts of his Special Envoy for Syria, urgently convene representatives of the Government of Syria and the opposition to engage in formal negotiations on an inclusive, Syrian-led political transition process, with a target of early January 2016 for the initiation of talks. The Council called for these efforts to be in line with the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012, as endorsed by resolution 2118 (2013), and the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) Statement of 14 November 2015. The Special Envoy was also tasked with facilitating a Syrian-led political process to establish credible, inclusive and non-sectarian governance and set a schedule and process for drafting a new constitution.



Special Envoy Syria / Constitutional Committee

The meeting of the Syrian Constitutional Committee continues in Geneva.

Seated in the centre is Geir Pedersen, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, at second from right is Hadi AlBhara, Opposition Co-Chair of the Syrian Constitutional Committee, and at second from left is Ahmad Kuzbari, Government Co-Chair of the Syrian Constitutional Committee. (2 June 2022)

3 / Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic

Mandate start: October 2013
Mandate end: September 2014
Mandating body: Security Council and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
Mandate decision: Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), OPCW Executive Council decision (EC-M-33/DEC.1), followed by an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2013/591) and the President of the Security Council (S/2013/603)
Head of Mission: Ms. Sigrid Kaag (the Netherlands)

On 16 September 2013, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council and the General Assembly the report of the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic on the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Ghouta area of Damascus on 21 August 2013. In resolution 2118 (2013) of 27 September 2013, the Security Council acknowledged the report and expressed deep outrage over its finding that chemical weapons were indeed used on 21 August 2013, in Rif Damascus. The Council condemned the killing of civilians that resulted from it, affirmed that the use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of international law, stressed that those responsible for any use of chemical weapons must be held accountable and emphasized that future credible allegations of chemical weapons use in Syria should be investigated.

The Council decided to prohibit Syria and parties in Syria from using, developing, producing, otherwise acquiring, stockpiling or retaining chemical weapons, or transferring, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to other States or non-State actors. The Council also demanded that Syria cooperate fully with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations, including by: complying with their relevant recommendations; accepting personnel designated by the OPCW or the United Nations; providing for and ensuring the security of activities undertaken by the personnel; providing the personnel with immediate and unfettered access to and the right to inspect, in discharging their functions, any and all sites; and allowing immediate and unfettered access to individuals that the OPCW had grounds to believe to be of importance for the purpose of its mandate. The Council called on all parties in Syria to cooperate fully in this regard.

In the same resolution, the Security Council endorsed and called for the swift implementation of a decision of the OPCW Executive Council of 27 September 2013, which contained special procedures for the expeditious destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and stringent verification thereof. It decided to



OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission on the elimination Syrian chemical weapons

Sigrid Kaag (left), newly-appointed Special Coordinator of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-UN Joint Mission on eliminating Syria's chemical weapons programme, speaks to the press during the Office of the Spokesperson's daily noon briefing. To the right of Ms. Kaag is Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The OPCW-UN Joint Mission on the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons has completed its mandate and its operations drew to a close on 30 September 2014. (16 October 2013)

authorize an advance team of United Nations personnel to provide early assistance to OPCW activities in Syria. It also requested that the OPCW Director-General and the Secretary-General cooperate closely in implementing the Executive Council decision and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), including through their operational activities on the ground. The Council further requested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the OPCW Director-General and, as appropriate, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, submit – within 10 days of the adoption of the resolution – recommendations regarding the role of the United Nations in eliminating the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 7 October 2013, the Secretary-General – with the support of the OPCW Director-General – presented a proposal for a Joint Mission of the OPCW and the United Nations to eliminate the Syrian chemical weapons programme. In response, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General on 11 October 2013 that the Council had authorized the Joint Mission.

As noted in the Secretary-General's letter, the OPCW and the United Nations divided mission tasks based on their particular competencies. The OPCW served as the lead technical agency, while the United Nations played a strategic coordination role and functioned as an operational enabler. Given the operating environment, the Joint Mission had a "light footprint" in Syria, deploying only personnel whose presence was necessary to perform key tasks. A civilian Special Coordinator served as head of the Joint Mission and reported to the Secretary-General and the OPCW Director-General. Having completed its mandate, the mission drew to a close on 30 September 2014.

4 / Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons–United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) for Syria

Mandate start: August 2015
Mandate end: November 2017
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2235 (2015)
Head of Mission: Ms. Virginia Gamba (Argentina)

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)–United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), established by Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) of 7 August 2015, aimed to identify individuals, groups and governments responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The mandate drew on the reports of an OPCW Fact-Finding Mission, which found with a high degree of confidence that chemical weapons – particularly chlorine – had repeatedly and systematically been used in the country, but that was not tasked with attributing responsibility for those acts. The Council resolution invited engagement with relevant States in the region in pursuit of the JIM mandate.

During the mandate period, on 4 April 2017, a chemical attack involving the release of sarin occurred in Khan Shaykhun. In a report documenting its investigation of the incident, the JIM attributed responsibility for this act to the Government of Syria.

The Mechanism's mandate expired in November 2017 after the Security Council did not renew it owing to the use of veto by a permanent member of the Council. This mission had an attribution mandate, the first from the Security Council regarding Syria.



Secretary-General Meets Head of OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre) meets with Ms. Virginia Gamba (centre left), Head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), which is tasked with identifying "individuals, entities, groups, or governments involved in the use of chemicals as weapons" in Syria. Also pictured: Ms. Gamba's Deputies, Mr. Eberhard Schanze (left) and Mr. Adrian Neritani (second from right); as well as Mr. Kim Won-soo, Acting UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. (22 September 2015)

Tajikistan

1 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Tajikistan

Mandate start: April 1993
Mandate end: April 1996
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/25697) and the President of the Security Council (S/25698)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ismat Kittani (Iraq)

Following the outbreak of civil war in Tajikistan in 1992, the United Nations engaged in fact-finding and good offices in September 1992, when the Secretary-General dispatched a fact-finding mission led by the Department of Political Affairs to the country. A second mission, involving United Nations humanitarian actors, was dispatched in November 1992.

In a letter to the Security Council dated 26 April 1993, the Secretary-General concluded that, in the absence of urgent action to establish a ceasefire and start political dialogue, hostilities in Tajikistan could escalate, especially in the areas bordering Afghanistan. He informed the Security Council that he intended to appoint Ambassador Ismat Kittani as his Special Envoy for Tajikistan, with a mandate aimed at obtaining an agreement on a ceasefire with appropriate international monitoring; initiating negotiations for a political solution; and enlisting the assistance of neighbouring countries and others concerned in achieving the objectives. The Special Envoy engaged with the President and other government officials in Tajikistan and held meetings with leaders of neighbouring countries, such as Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan.

In 1994, the Special Envoy supported a series of inter-Tajik talks, which contributed to reaching of agreements such as the extension of a temporary cease-fire and the establishment of a joint commission to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire. In resolution 968 (1994), the Security Council commended the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, as well as of the countries and regional organizations acting as observers in the inter-Tajik talks. These agreements also outlined the role the United Nations would play in supporting the joint commission's work. These agreements laid the groundwork for the Security Council to establish a peacekeeping operation – the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) – in December 1994.

In a letter to the Security Council dated 26 April 1996, the Secretary-General informed the Council that he decided to appoint Mr. Gerd Merrem of Germany as his Special Representative for Tajikistan and perform the functions of Head of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT, a peacekeeping operation), into which the Special Envoy's function was subsumed.

2 / United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding (UNTOP)

Mandate start: June 2000
Mandate end: July 2007
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: presidential statement (S/PRST/2000/17)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ivo Petrov (Bulgaria)

In a report dated 5 May 2000, the Secretary-General stressed that, following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), a peacekeeping operation, post-conflict Tajikistan would require continued support from the international community to be able to sustain and build on the achievements of the peace process. He pledged to inform the Council of the option of establishing a peacebuilding office equipped to address institutional, social and economic development in an integrated manner to consolidate peace and promote democracy.

In a presidential statement dated 12 May 2000, the Security Council welcomed the success achieved in the peace process in Tajikistan, noting the implementation of the main provisions of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, signed in Moscow on 27 June 1997 under the auspices of the United Nations. The Council also expressed interest in the Secretary-General's forthcoming proposal regarding the modalities of the establishment and functioning of a post-conflict peacebuilding office of the United Nations in Tajikistan.

Pursuant to the Security Council's approval of the Secretary-General's proposal, the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding (UNTOP) was established on 1 June 2000. It was mandated to consolidate peace; promote democracy; provide the political framework and leadership for post-conflict peacebuilding activities of the United Nations system in the country; and mobilize international support for the implementation of targeted programmes aimed at strengthening the rule of law, demobilization, voluntary arms collection and employment creation for former irregular fighters.

Following its work in areas such as strengthening national dialogue, helping to build democratic institutions, and promoting respect for human rights, the Office handed over its activities to national and international partners, including State authorities, institutions and civil society organizations. The activities of UNTOP ended in July 2007. The phasing down of UNTOP took place in parallel with the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia, with a mandate covering the five central Asian countries, including Tajikistan.

Timor Leste

1 / Special Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor

Mandate start: December 1975
Mandate end: March 1976
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 384 (1975)
Head of Mission: Mr. Vittorio Winspeare Guicciardi (Italy)

In resolution 384 of 22 December 1975, the Security Council expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation and loss of life in East Timor, deplored the intervention of Indonesian armed forces, and regretted that Portugal had not fully discharged its responsibilities as the administering Power under Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter. The resolution requested that the Secretary-General send a Special Representative to East Timor to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation and to establish contact with all the parties in the Territory and all States concerned as a means of ensuring implementation of the resolution. The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Vittorio Winspeare Guicciardi, then Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, to the position. The Special Representative visited the region from 15 January to 8 February 1976 and held meetings with President Suharto, senior Indonesian officials in Jakarta, interlocutors of the "Provisional Government of East Timor" in Dili, and Australian officials in Darwin and Sydney. On 12 March 1976, the Secretary-General transmitted the report of the mission to the Security Council.

2 / United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET)

Mandate start: June 1999
Mandate end: October 1999
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolutions 1246 (1999) and 1262 (1999)
Head of Mission: Mr. Ian Martin (United Kingdom)

After Indonesia proposed special autonomy for East Timor, the United Nations facilitated negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal that culminated in the Agreements of 5 May 1999, which entrusted the Secretary-General with organizing and conducting a popular consultation to determine whether the East Timorese people accepted or rejected the proposed special autonomy within Indonesia. In resolution 1236 (1999) of 7 May 1999, the Security Council welcomed the Agreements as well as the Secretary-General's intention to establish a United Nations presence in East Timor to assist in their implementation, in particular by conducting a popular consultation of the East Timorese people on the acceptance or rejection of a constitutional framework for autonomy and by making available a number of civilian police officers. In addition to acting as advisers to the Indonesian Police in the discharge of their duties in East Timor, the latter would supervise the escort of ballot papers and boxes to and from the polling sites at the time of the consultation.

In a report to the Council dated 22 May 1999, the Secretary-General presented detailed recommendations on the mandate, size, structure and budget of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET). He also informed the Council of his decision to appoint Mr. Ian Martin as his Special Representative. The Security Council welcomed the proposal and established UNAMET through resolution 1246, adopted on 11 June 1999.

Despite challenging conditions, UNAMET oversaw the referendum of 30 August 1999, in which 98.6 per cent of eligible East Timorese voters turned out and 78.5 per cent voted for independence. The Secretary-General reported that after the referendum, pro-integration militias carried out widespread attacks, leading to the death of many East Timorese and a partial evacuation of UNAMET. After a Security Council mission to Jakarta and Dili in September 1999, Indonesia agreed to international assistance. The Security Council then authorized a multinational force (INTERFET) to restore peace and support UNAMET. The United Nations also launched a large-scale humanitarian relief effort.



A volunteer from the United States works on election processing in East Timor.

A volunteer from the United States works on election processing in East Timor.

Indonesia and Portugal confirmed the transfer of authority to the United Nations on 28 September 1999 and UNAMET resumed operations in Dili. On 19 October 1999, Indonesia officially recognized the referendum results. UNAMET's mandate ended on 25 October 1999 with the establishment of a peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) responsible for the Territory's overall administration.[47]

3 / United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL)

Mandate start: April 2005
Mandate end: August 2006
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1599 (2005)
Head of Mission: Mr. Sukehiro Hasegawa (Japan)

In a report dated 18 February 2005, the Secretary-General noted that tangible progress had been achieved in establishing sustainable State institutions and in promoting democracy, transparency, accountability and respect for human rights in Timor-Leste. In view of remaining challenges, he recommended extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), a peacekeeping operation, beyond 20 May 2005 to enable the provision of international assistance required for the long-term security, stability and sustainable development of the country.

In resolution 1599 (2005) of 28 April 2005, the Security Council stated that emerging institutions in Timor-Leste were still in the process of consolidation and that further assistance was required to ensure sustained development and strengthening of key sectors, especially public administration and the rule of law, including justice, human rights and the Timor-Leste Police. The Council decided to establish the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) with a mandate to: support the development of critical State institutions by providing up to 45 civilian advisers; assist further development of the police by providing up to 40 police advisers; support the Border Patrol Unit by providing up to 35 additional advisers, including up to 15 military advisers; and provide training in observance of democratic governance and human rights by providing up to 10 human rights officers.

Following a series of events that culminated in a severe political, humanitarian and security crisis in 2006, Security Council resolution 1704 (2006) replaced UNOTIL with the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).



Australian Prime Minister Visits UNOTIL

Prime Minister John Howard of Australia (left) visited the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) and was received by Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste Anis Bajwa (right) who is acting as Officer-in-Charge. (18 July 2006)

47. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1999, p. 58

Togoland

1 / Plebiscite Commissioner for the Trust Territory of Togoland under British Administration

Mandate start: December 1955
Mandate end: June 1956
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 944 (X)
Head of Mission: Mr. Eduardo Espinosa y Prieto (Mexico)

In resolution 944 (X) of 15 December 1955, the General Assembly recalled resolution 860 (IX) of 14 December 1954, which had asked the Trusteeship Council to consider arrangements for ascertaining the wishes of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration regarding their future. The Trusteeship Council was to consider options without prejudice to the eventual solution chosen, be it independence, unification of an independent Togoland under British administration with an independent Togoland under French administration, unification with an independent Gold Coast, or some other self-governing or independent status. In pursuance of Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly recommended that the United Kingdom, as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory, take swift steps to organize and conduct a plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the majority of its inhabitants, in consultation with a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner. The Assembly also decided to appoint the Plebiscite Commissioner, who would exercise powers on its behalf and be assisted by observers and staff appointed by the Secretary-General.

On 9 May 1956, the United Nations supervised a plebiscite in British Togoland to determine its political future. The vote resulted in approximately 58 per cent of voters supporting integration with the British Gold Coast. The plebiscite outcomes were submitted to the Trusteeship Council during its eighteenth session, accompanied by reports from the Plebiscite Commissioner, Mr. Eduardo Espinosa y Prieto, and the Plebiscite Administrator appointed by the Administering Authority.

2 / United Nations Commissioner to supervise the elections in Togoland under French administration

Mandate start: November 1957
Mandate end: June 1958
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 1182 (XII)
Head of Mission: Mr. Max H. Dorsinville (Haiti)

In resolution 1182 (XII) of 18 November 1957, the General Assembly decided to elect a Commissioner to supervise legislative elections in Togoland. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General appoint observers and staff to assist the Commissioner, in consultation with him. The Assembly elected Mr. Max H. Dorsinville of Haiti to the position on 14 December 1957. The resolution also requested that the Administering Authority and the Government of Togoland, in consultation with the Commissioner, make the necessary arrangements for organizing and conducting the elections.

Commissioner Dorsinville submitted his report on the organization, conduct and results of the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of Togoland under French administration, the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly during its thirteenth session. While noting certain defects and weaknesses of the elections, Commissioner Dorsinville stated that the general outcome faithfully reflected the wishes of the people of Togoland.



Plebiscite in British Togoland

Miss Ruth Galevo, of the Ewe Presbyterian Church middle school in Kpedze, reading her prize-winning essay on the plebiscite to Mr. Espinosa Y. Prieto, United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner. The recording is being made for U.N. Radio by Mr. Richard de Roussy de Sales. (1 May 1956)

West Africa and the Sahel

1 / United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)

Mandate start: January 2002
Mandate end: January 2016
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2001/1128) and the President of the Security Council (S/2001/1129)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah (Mauritania)

The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) was established in 2002, following an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. It was created on the basis of the recommendations of the report of the Inter-Agency Mission to West Africa, which visited 11 West African countries from 6 to 27 March 2001 and noted the urgent need to establish a United Nations office for the region. The initial tasks of the Office included: a) enhancing linkages in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the subregion, including by promoting an integrated subregional approach and facilitating coordination and information exchange, with due regard to specific mandates of United Nations organizations as well as peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding support offices; b) liaising with and assisting the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Mano River Union, in consultation with other subregional organizations and international partners; c) carrying out good offices roles and special assignments in countries of the subregion, on behalf of the Secretary-General, including with respect to conflict-prevention and peacebuilding efforts; and d) reporting to Headquarters on key developments of subregional significance.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa also chairs the Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission. In January 2016, UNOWA and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel (see below) were combined into the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel.



UN Special Envoy for Sahel Meets President of Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. Romano Prodi (second from left), Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Sahel, meets with Mr. Alassane Ouattara (left), President of Côte d'Ivoire. (7 October 2013)

2 / Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel

Mandate start: October 2012
Mandate end: January 2016
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2012/750) and the President of the Security Council (S/2012/751)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Romano Prodi (Italy)

In resolution 2056 (2012) of 5 July 2012, the Security Council condemned the forcible seizure of power from the democratically elected Government of Mali and expressed serious concern about the insecurity and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Sahel region. In this context, it also cited the presence of armed groups and terrorist groups and their activities, as well as the proliferation of weapons within and beyond the region, as threats to the peace, security and stability of States in the region. The Council requested that the Secretary-General develop and implement, in consultation with regional organizations, a United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel region, encompassing security, governance, development, human rights and humanitarian issues.

On 5 October 2012, the Secretary-General communicated to the Security Council his intention to appoint Mr. Romano Prodi as his Special Envoy for the Sahel to finalize the development of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and oversee its implementation. The President of the Security Council acknowledged the intention on 6 October 2012 and welcomed the appointment in resolution 2071 (2012) of 12 October 2012.

On 14 June 2013, the Secretary-General submitted the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, which was built around three broad strategic goals: a) enhancing inclusive and effective governance throughout the region; b) securing national and regional security mechanisms capable of addressing cross-border threats; and c) integrating humanitarian and development plans and interventions for long-term resilience. The strategy covered the following countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. The Security Council welcomed the Strategy and requested that the Secretary-General keep the Council informed of the progress in its implementation.

In January 2016, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel and UNOWA (see above) were combined into the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

3 / United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

Mandate start: January 2016
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: two exchanges of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (respectively, S/2016/88 and S/2016/89 in January 2016, S/2016/1128 and S/2016/1129 in December 2016)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas (Ghana)

The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) was established further to an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the merger of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel into a single entity. UNOWAS is mandated to undertake tasks such as: monitoring political developments in West Africa and the Sahel; carrying out good offices and special assignments on behalf of the Secretary-General to support conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the maintenance of peace and mediation efforts; supporting the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel; and working closely with the States of the region to tackle threats to peace, security and development, as well as their root causes. The head of UNOWAS also chairs the Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission, which the Secretary-General established at the request of the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria to facilitate the implementation of the 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice on the Cameroon–Nigeria boundary dispute.



Secretary-General Meets on Integrated Strategy for Sahel with UN System in Dakar, Senegal

Secretary-General António Guterres (centre) meets with UN System and Mr. Annadif Khatir Mahamat Saleh (right), Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), on an Integrated Strategy for the Sahel while in Dakar, Senegal. (1 May 2022)

Western Sahara

1 / Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara under Security Council resolution 621 (1988)

Mandate start: September 1988
Mandate end: April 1991
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 621 (1988)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Héctor Gros Espiell (Uruguay)

On 20 September 1988, the Security Council adopted resolution 621 (1988) and took note of the agreement in principle given by the two parties on 30 August 1998 to the joint proposals of the Secretary-General and the then Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and authorized the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative for Western Sahara.

On 29 April 1991, the Security Council, in its resolution 690 (1991), decided to establish the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), a peacekeeping operation headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission thus superseding the special political mission.



Secretary-General Makes a Statement Following Conclusion of Iran/Iraq Talks and Discussions with Parties to Western Sahara Conflict

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar making a final statement to the press following five days of talks with the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq and with the parties to the Western Sahara conflict. On the right is Ms. Nadia Younes, Spokeswoman for the Secretary-General. (8 July 1990)



Secretary-General Meets Polisario Front Youth Group

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre) speaks with a group of youth from the Polisario Front at the Polisario Secretariat offices in the Rabouni camp near Tindouf, Algeria. Mr. Ban is flanked by Mr. Christopher Ross (left), Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, and Ms. Kim Bolduc, Special Representative and Head of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Mr. Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, stands to the left. (5 March 2016)

2 / Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara

Mandate start: March 1997
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: presidential statement (S/PRST/1997/16) pursuant to the Secretary-General's letter (S/1997/236)
First Head of Mission: Mr. James Baker III (United States)

In his letter to the President of the Security Council dated 17 March 1997, the Secretary-General conveyed his intention to appoint Mr. James Baker III of the United States as his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara.

The Personal Envoy is responsible for assisting the parties in finding a just, lasting and mutually-acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

Western Samoa

1 / United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for Western Samoa

Mandate start: December 1960
Mandate end: May 1961
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 1569 (XV)
Head of Mission: Mr. Najmuddine Rifai (United Arab Republic)

In accordance with Trusteeship Council resolution 1922 (S-VIII) of 17 October 1958 and with rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, the Trusteeship Council dispatched a United Nations Visiting Mission to the Territory of Western Samoa in March 1959. The mission submitted its report to the Trusteeship Council in May 1959.

At its twenty-sixth session in 1960, the Trusteeship Council commended the Administering Authority of Western Samoa, New Zealand, and the Samoan people for the progress made in preparing the Territory for independence. Major constitutional reforms had been introduced by the Samoa Constitutional Amendment Act of 1959, which the New Zealand Parliament passed in September 1959. The Working Committee on Self-Government, established in January 1959 to consider the constitutional problems involved in the transition to independence, began drafting a constitution in January 1960. A plebiscite was scheduled for May 1961, to allow the people to express their opinion on the resulting constitution.[48]



UN Plebiscite in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa

A UN plebiscite took place today in the UN Trust Territory of Western Samoa, as recommended by the General Assembly in December 1960, for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of the islanders about their political future. The UN is supervising the plebiscite which is being organized and conducted by New Zealand as administering authority of the Trust Territory.

Samoa's Prime Minister, Fiame Mataafa Foumuina Mulinu'u II, and his wife are seen here waiting to cast their votes. (9 May 1961)

In resolution 1569 (XV) of 18 December 1960, the General Assembly recommended that New Zealand take steps to organize a plebiscite in Western Samoa in May 1961, to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of the Territory concerning their future, in line with Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations. It specified that the plebiscite should be held in consultation with a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and under the supervision of the United Nations. Accordingly, the General Assembly decided to appoint a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for Western Samoa to exercise the necessary powers and functions of supervision on its behalf, assisted by observers and staff to be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Commissioner. The General Assembly appointed Mr. Najmuddine Rifai of the United Arab Republic to the position.

The plebiscite took place on 9 May 1961, under United Nations supervision. Results showed that 83 per cent of the people voted in favour of the Constitution, and 79 per cent favoured independence of the Territory. The Commissioner reported that the plebiscite had been fair and impartial and that no complaints or petitions had been submitted with regard to its organization or conduct. On 7 July 1961, the Trusteeship Council unanimously adopted resolution 2102 (XXVII), transmitting the report of the Commissioner to the General Assembly with the recommendation that the Assembly decide, in agreement with the Administering Authority, to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement for Western Samoa on 1 January 1962, when the Trust Territory would become independent in accordance with Article 76b of the United Nations Charter.[49]

48. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1960, pp. 477–478.
49. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1961, p. 496.

Yemen

1 / United Nations Special Mission on Aden

Mandate start: February 1967
Mandate end: November 1967
Mandating body: General Assembly
Mandate decision: resolution 2183 (XXI)
Head of Mission: Mr. Manuel Pérez Guerrero (Venezuela)

In resolution 2183 (XXI) of 12 December 1966, the General Assembly expressed deep concern that the critical and explosive situation in the Territory of Aden could pose peace and security risks in the region as a result of the failure of the United Kingdom, the administering Power, to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions, including the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted as General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). At the same time, the Assembly noted that the United Kingdom had issued a declaration and a statement regarding the Government's readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in the full implementation of the resolutions.

Resolution 2183 (XXI) also requested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Special Committee and the United Kingdom, immediately appoint a special mission to be sent to Aden with a view to recommending practical steps for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions and for determining the extent of United Nations participation in the preparation and supervision of elections. The Assembly requested that a mission report be submitted as soon as possible for transmission to the Special Committee.

On 23 February 1967, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Rafael Pérez Guerrero of Venezuela as Chairman, and Mr. Abdul Satar Shalizi of Afghanistan and Mr. Moussa Léo Keita of Mali as members of the United Nations Special Mission to Aden. The situation in the territory had shown further deterioration, with disturbances and incidents involving loss of life, particularly in Aden, occurring almost daily. A state of emergency had been in force since December 1963, and hundreds of people had been placed in detention.

The Special Mission consulted with representatives of the United Kingdom and several Arab countries. It then visited London, Cairo, and Jeddah, where it met with political groups and petitioners from the territory, before arriving in Aden in April 1967, where conditions did not permit it to discharge its responsibilities inside the territory effectively. It held additional consultations in Geneva, London and New York, as well as Beirut and Cairo later in the year. It submitted its final report to the Secretary-General on 10 November 1967. On 21 November 1967, the Special Committee on Decolonization considered the report of the Special Mission, which stated that the mission had tried to act in consultation with and enlist the cooperation of the United Kingdom, but that the latter had failed to establish a climate of confidence in the Territory, thereby adding to the difficulties faced by the mission.[50] The Mission stated that it had been unable to hear all shades of opinion in the territory due to unconducive conditions on the ground. It expressed the hope that agreement between nationalist movements would pave the way for the formation of a broadly-based transitional government before independence.

On 28 November 1967, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation of the work done by the Special Mission on Aden; reaffirmed the unity of the territory and its territorial integrity, including all the islands; and expressed the hope that the territory would consolidate its independence in unity and harmony, overcome the problems confronting it in consequence of colonial rule, and play a constructive role as a member of the international community.[51] On 30 November 1967, the territory became independent as the People's Republic of South Yemen.

2 / Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yemen and Head of the fact-finding mission to Yemen

Mandate start: June 1994
Mandate end: July 1994
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/1994/664) and the President of the Security Council (S/1994/665), pursuant to resolution 924(1994)
Head of Mission: Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria)

Following the unification of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY South Yemen) and the Yemen Arab Republic (TAR North Yemen) on 22 May 1990 to form the Republic of Yemen, a civil war along the old north–south lines erupted in May 1994. A group of States in the region brought the situation in Yemen to the attention of the Security Council, which, in resolution 924 (1994) of 1 June 1994, called for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of the supply of arms. The Council also requested that the Secretary-General send a fact-finding mission to the area to assess prospects for a dialogue and further efforts by the parties to resolve their differences.

The Secretary-General appointed Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as his Special Envoy to Yemen. From 8 to 21 June 1994, Special Envoy Brahimi visited Yemen and the region and held extensive discussions there. As per resolution 924 (1994), he attempted to arrange a ceasefire and facilitate agreement on a mechanism to supervise it. On the basis of his findings, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Security Council on 27 June 1994. The Security Council, in resolution 931 (1994) of 29 June 1994, expressed its deep concern at the tragic death of innocent civilians and again called for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of the supply of arms, as well as an urgent return to negotiations.

50. *Yearbook of the United Nations*, 1967, p. 653.
51. Ibid

Yemen

While the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy examine appropriate ways to facilitate political dialogue to restore peace and stability in Yemen, northern forces, under the leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, ultimately prevailed, capturing Aden on 7 July 1994 and effectively ending the civil war.

3 / Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen

Mission name change: Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (April 2015)

Mandate start: April 2011
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: two exchanges of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (respectively, S/2012/469 and S/2012/470 in 2012, S/2015/283 and S/2015/284 in 2015)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Jamal Benomar (United Kingdom)



Secretary-General Visits Yemen for Anniversary of Transition Agreement

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Yemen on the eve of the first anniversary of the country's peace and transition agreement, which was signed on 23 November 2011 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Ban (in striped tie) is seen with (starting from his right): Mr. Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, President of the Republic of Yemen; Mr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; and Mr. Jamal Benomar, UN Special Adviser on Yemen. (19 Novembre 2012)

In April 2011, amid a popular uprising and growing instability in Yemen, the Secretary-General requested that his Special Adviser, Mr. Jamal Benomar, exercise his good offices to assist the Yemenis in paving the way towards a peaceful political transition. In resolution 2014 (2011) of 21 October 2011, the Security Council called for a political settlement and requested that the Secretary-General continue using his good offices, including through visits to Yemen by the Special Adviser. Underscoring the need for the full and timely implementation of the Transition Agreement (the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative Implementation Mechanism), resolution 2051 (2012) of 12 June 2012 again urged the Secretary-General to continue his good offices role, including through the efforts of his Special Adviser, and stressed that close coordination with international partners was critical to the successful transition in Yemen. In this regard, the Council welcomed the political engagement of the United Nations through a small team of experts in Yemen. The team was tasked with supporting the implementation of the transition process and providing advice to the parties in conjunction with the Government of Yemen, particularly in support of the National Dialogue process.

To ensure the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012), together with the Transition Agreement, the Secretary-General established the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen in June 2012, following approval by the Security Council. The Office was mandated to: a) exercise good offices with a view to facilitating the political transition in Yemen and assisting in the implementation of the Agreement; b) lead United Nations support to the National Dialogue Conference and coordinate international assistance to the Conference; c) provide assistance to other transition steps, including the constitutional review and general elections; d) work closely with the members of the Security Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and other international partners; e) support the Secretary-General's ongoing reporting obligations to the Security Council in the context of resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012).

4 / Panel of Experts on Yemen

Mandate start: February 2014
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2140 (2014)

In resolution 2140 (2014) of 26 February 2014, the Security Council imposed a one-year travel ban and asset freeze against entities and individuals who engaged in or provided support for acts that threatened the peace, security and stability of Yemen. The Council established a Sanctions Committee to designate offenders and to oversee the implementation of these measures. The Council further demanded that the Houthis immediately and unconditionally end the use of violence; withdraw their forces from all areas they seized, including the capital, Sana'a; relinquish all additional arms seized from military and security institutions, including missile systems; refrain from any provocation or threats to neighbouring States; safely release all political prisoners and all individuals under house arrest or arbitrarily detained; and end the recruitment and use of children and release all children from their ranks. It also requested that the Secretary-General create a Panel of Experts composed of four members to support the Committee. The Panel of Experts was tasked with assisting the Committee in monitoring the implementation of the sanctions, gathering and analysing information regarding violations, and providing recommendations to the Committee.

Yemen

In resolution 2216 (2015) of 14 April 2015, the Council expressed grave concern at the continuing deterioration of the security situation in Yemen, including the escalation of violence, as well as the presence and activities of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. It expressed alarm at the military escalation by the Houthis in many parts of Yemen, including in the governorates of Al Bayda, Al Jawf, Marib and Ta'iz, their advance towards Aden, and their seizure of arms, including missile systems, from the military and security institutions of Yemen. It demanded that all Yemeni parties respect the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative and Implementation Mechanism Agreement.The Council demanded that all Yemeni parties, in particular the Houthis, fully implement resolution 2201 (2015) and refrain from further unilateral actions that could undermine the political transition. Meanwhile, the Council further requested the Secretary-General to increase the Panel to five members and make the necessary financial and security arrangements to support the work of the Panel. The Panel mandate has been renewed regularly, including by resolution 2801 (2025) which extended the sanctions measures until 14 November 2026 and the mandate until 15 December 2026. The targeted arms embargo is open-ended.

5 / United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA)

Mandate start: January 2019
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 2452 (2019)
First Head of Mission: Retired Major General Patrick Cammaert (the Netherlands)

Following months of intensive shuttle diplomacy, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen convened intra-Yemeni peace consultations in Sweden from 6 to 13 December 2018. The consultations successfully concluded with the parties to the conflict reaching several agreements on the city and governorate of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Ra's Isa and Salif; an executive mechanism for activating a prisoner exchange agreement; and a statement of understanding on Ta'iz. These agreements are collectively set out in the Stockholm Agreement, which the Security Council endorsed in resolution 2451 (2018) of 21 December 2018.

The Security Council also authorized the Secretary-General to establish and deploy an advance team to monitor, support and facilitate the immediate implementation of the Stockholm Agreement, as requested by the parties. In addition, it requested that the Secretary-General submit proposals on how the United Nations could best support the parties in implementing the Stockholm Agreement and mandated the United Nations to chair the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC), charged with overseeing the ceasefire and the redeployment of forces, among other matters. The Secretary-General appointed retired Major General Patrick Cammaert as Chair of the RCC.

In resolution 2452 (2019) of 16 January 2019, the Security Council established a special political mission – the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) – to assist in the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement. The Council approved the Secretary-General's proposals regarding the compositional and operational aspects of UNMHA, mandating it to: a) lead and support the functioning of the RCC, assisted by a secretariat staffed by United Nations personnel, to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire, redeployment of forces and mine action operations; b) monitor the compliance of the parties to the ceasefire in Hudaydah governorate and the mutual redeployment of forces from the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Ra's Isa and Salif; c) work with the parties so that the security of the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Ra's Isa and Salif is assured by local security forces in accordance with Yemeni law; and d) facilitate and coordinate United Nations support to assist the parties to fully implement the Stockholm Agreement. The Council also noted that the RCC Chair would head UNMHA at the Assistant Secretary-General level, reporting to the Secretary-General through the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

Yugoslavia

1 / Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yugoslavia

Mandate start: October 1991
Mandate end: May 1993
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 713 (1991)
First Head of Mission: Mr. Cyrus Vance (United States)

In resolution 713 (1991) of 25 September 1991, the Security Council expressed deep concern about a heavy loss of human life and material damage caused by fighting in Yugoslavia, as well as consequences for the countries in the region. It stressed that a continuation of the situation constituted a threat to international peace and security and expressed full support for the collective efforts for peace and dialogue in Yugoslavia undertaken by member States of the European Community, assisted by the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Council endorsed any arrangements and measures resulting from the collective efforts, particularly with regard to ceasefire observers, a consolidated cessation of hostilities, and the smooth functioning of the peace process instituted within the framework of the Conference on Yugoslavia. It invited the Secretary-General to offer his assistance without delay, in consultation with the Government of Yugoslavia and all those promoting collective efforts, and to report as soon as possible to the Security Council.

On 8 October 1991, in response to resolution 713 (1991), the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had appointed Mr. Cyrus Vance as his Personal Envoy. In resolution 721 (1991) of 27 November 1991, the Security Council welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and asked the Secretary-General to present early recommendations to the Security Council, including for the possible establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia. In a report submitted on 11 December 1991, the Secretary-General observed that the conditions for establishing a peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia still did not exist and that such an operation could not be envisaged unless the parties complied fully with the Geneva Agreement of 23 November 1991.

In 1992, Personal Envoy Vance worked in close coordination with the European Community to find a settlement plan for the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 21 February 1992, noting that the Government of Yugoslavia had requested the deployment of a peacekeeping operation and recognizing the Special Envoy's role in securing conditions required for such a request, the Security Council adopted resolution 743 (1992), authorizing the establishment of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Zimbabwe

1 / Representative of the Secretary-General under resolution 415 (1977)

Mandate start: September 1977
Mandate end: May 1978
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 415 (1977)
Head of Mission: Lieutenant General Dewan Prem Chand (India)

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 1 September 1977, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom communicated proposals for an orderly and peaceful transition to independence for conflict-torn Southern Rhodesia. In its proposal, the United Kingdom foresaw the appointment of a United Nations special representative, whose role would be to work with the British Resident Commissioner and to observe the administration of the country and the organization and conduct of the election.

The Security Council noted the invitation of the Government of the United Kingdom in resolution 415 (1977) of 29 September 1977 and asked the Secretary-General to appoint a representative. The role of the representative was to focus on entering into discussions with the British Resident Commissioner-designate and with all relevant parties, with a view to securing military and associated arrangements to advance the transition towards majority rule and independence in Southern Rhodesia. On 3 October 1977, the Secretary-General appointed Lieutenant General Dewan Prem Chand as his Representative.

In resolution 423 (1978) of 14 March 1978, the Security Council called on the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, to take all measures necessary to bring to an end the racist minority regime and to effect the genuine decolonization of the territory. The Council considered that the speedy termination of the illegal regime and the replacement of its military and police forces was the first prerequisite for the restoration of legality in Southern Rhodesia so that a peaceful and democratic transition to genuine majority rule and independence could take place. It requested that the Secretary-General report back on the implementation of the resolution.

Representative Prem Chand, on behalf of the Secretary-General, attended consultations with representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as meetings with leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe and senior officials of the Governments of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia in 1977 and 1978. The Secretary-General submitted his report on the implementation of resolution 423 (1978) on 1 May 1978. In it, he cited praise from the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States for the role played by his Representative in seeking a negotiated settlement.

SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS WITH GLOBAL MANDATES

DPPA

Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace

1 / Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

Mandate start: January 2004
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1526 (2004)

Having reaffirmed the need to combat, by all means, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the Security Council, in resolution 1526 (2004), decided to improve the implementation of counter-terrorism measures relating to Usama bin Laden, Al-Qaida, the Taliban and other individuals and groups associated with them. The Council specified its intention to enhance measures imposed by paragraph 4 (b) of resolution 1267 (1999), paragraph 8 (c) of resolution 1333 (2000), and paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1390 (2002). To this end, the Council decided to strengthen the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) to include, in addition to the oversight of States' implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 1526 (2004), a central role in assessing information for the Council's review regarding effective implementation of the measures, as well as in recommending improvements to the measures.

To assist the Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate, the Council established an Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, which works under the Committee's direction. According to the list of responsibilities enumerated in an annex to resolution 1526 (2004), the Team assesses and makes recommendations on the implementation of sanction measures, conducts regular field visits, and cooperates with INTERPOL and other international bodies. On 17 June 2011, the Security Council adopted resolution 1988 (2011), expanding the Team's mandate to support the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) concerning the Taliban. The Team reports to and assists the Committees in preparing assessments for the Security Council. In Security Council resolution 2253 (2015), the Team's mandate was expanded to include the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (also known as Da'esh). The mandate has been regularly renewed, most recently by resolution 2734 (2024) until 17 June 2027.

2 / Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Mandate start: March 2004
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1535 (2004)
First Executive Director: Mr. Javier Rupérez (Spain)

In resolution 1535 (2004), the Security Council reaffirmed its determination to combat all forms of terrorism. Having considered the report of the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the problems encountered by Member States and the Committee itself in the implementation of counter-terrorism measures in resolution 1373 (2001), the Council also endorsed the report of the Committee on its revitalization. The Council further decided that the revitalized Committee would consist of the Plenary – composed of Security Council members – and the Bureau, the latter comprising the Chair and the Vice-Chairs. To enhance the Committee's ability to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and continue effective capacity-building work, the Council also established a new special political mission, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to assist the Committee under the policy guidance of the Plenary.

3 / Office of the Focal Point for Delisting

Mandate start: July 2024
Mandate end: September 2025
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolutions 1730 (2006) and 2744 (2024)

The mandate of the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting derives from Security Council resolution 1730 (2006), in which the Council adopted a delisting procedure and requested that the Secretary-General establish a Focal Point within the Secretariat. The mandate was extended and modified in subsequent resolutions and strengthened in resolution 2744 (2024). In the same resolution, the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General appoint the Focal Point in consultation with a newly established Security Council Informal Working Group on sanction-related issues.

The Focal Point is mandated to review delisting requests from individuals, groups, undertakings or entities designated on the lists of the sanctions committees established by the Security Council, with the exception of the Sanctions List concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and Al-Qaida, which falls under the purview of the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1904 (2009). The Focal Point is also mandated to respond to requests for travel ban and asset freeze exemptions, as well as communications related to cases of false or mistaken identity and post-delisting challenges, from certain listed individuals and entities.

4 / Office of the Ombudsperson to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee

Mandate start: December 2009
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1904 (2009)
First Ombudsperson: Ms. Kimberly Prost (Canada)

In resolution 1904 (2009) of 17 December 2009, which recalled previous resolutions on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the Security Council established the Office of the Ombudsperson to enhance the fairness and transparency of the sanctions regime established in resolution 1267 (1999). According to the mandate outlined in an annex to resolution 1904 (2009) and in subsequent resolutions, most recently 2734 (2024), the Ombudsperson receives de-listing requests directly from individuals and entities on the sanctions list covering the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and Al-Qaida; conducts thorough reviews of each case; and makes independent, evidence-based recommendations to the ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee on whether a listing should be maintained. The Ombudsperson is responsible for maintaining and further developing consistent policies, procedures and standards, as necessary for the independent examination of petitions.

5 / Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Mandate start: July 2004
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1366 (2001)
First special adviser: Mr. Juan Méndez (Argentina)

In 2004, on the tenth annual commemoration of the genocide in Rwanda, the Secretary-General launched an Action Plan to Prevent Genocide. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1366 (2001), he appointed the first Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, as noted by the President of the Security Council in his letter to the Secretary-General dated 13 July 2004. In line with Security Council resolution 1366 (2001) and as captured in a letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council on 12 July 2004, the Special Adviser's responsibilities include: a) collecting existing information, in particular from within the United Nations system, on massive and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law of ethnic and racial origin that, if not prevented or halted, might lead to genocide; b) acting as an early warning mechanism to the Secretary-General, and through him to the Security Council, by bringing to their attention potential situations that could result in genocide; c) making recommendations to the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, on actions to prevent or halt genocide; d) liaising with the United Nations system on activities for the prevention of genocide and working to enhance the United Nations capacity to analyse and manage information relating to genocide or related crimes.

6 / Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Mandate start: April 2005
Mandate end: ongoing
Mandating body: Security Council
Mandate decision: resolution 1977 (2011), pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2004/985) and the President of the Security Council (S/2005/11)

In resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004, the Security Council expressed grave concern over the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The Council recognized the need to enhance the coordination of national, regional and international efforts to strengthen the global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security. It decided to require all States to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials. It also established the 1540 Committee to receive reports from Member States on completed and planned steps to implement the resolution, noting that the Committee could call on required expertise.

In turn, on 20 December 2004, the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to appoint four experts to assist the Committee in its work, a proposal that the Council approved on 7 January 2005. Resolution 1977 (2011) established a Group of up to eight experts and resolution 2055 (2012) enlarged the number to up to nine. On 30 November 2022, following the conclusion of the 2022 comprehensive implementation review, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2663 (2022), extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years and continuing the provision of assistance to the Committee by its Group of Experts.