



YEAR IN REVIEW



2012 United Nations
Peace Operations



Cover photos (clockwise from top):

A member of MINURSO's Military Liaison Office chats with a group of local Western Saharans, June 2010. (UN Photo/Martine Perret)

Crowds of locals surround the recently-dispatched UN monitoring team as they walk through the streets of Homs, Syria, April 2012. (UN Photo/Neeraj Singh)

Women taking part in traditional dances in Dili, Timor-Leste. (UNMIT/Bernardino Soares)

A Ghanaian peacekeeper serving with the United Nations Mission in Liberia, on guard duty during a visit by the Special Representative Karin Landgren, in Cestos City, Liberia, November 2012. (UNMIL/Staton Winter)

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Peacekeepers of MALBATT (Malawi Battalion in Ivory Coast) in Ayama camp. (UNOCI/Patricia Esteve)



Evolving to meet new challenges

Peace operations, both peacekeeping and political, remain one of the most cost effective and critical United Nations activities. With over 110,000 personnel serving in around 30 peacekeeping and political missions in 2012, they were also one of the most visible undertakings of this global organization. As peace operations continued to evolve encompassing larger and more complex mandates, the United Nations, working in close partnerships with Member States, regional organizations, national authorities and other stakeholders, strived to adapt its peacekeeping and peacemaking tools to address new, ever-growing challenges and additional demands.

The past year will go down in UN peacekeeping history with an eventful record featuring it all, from hope to accomplishment to setback. On the one hand, the UN mission in Timor-Leste successfully completed its mandate in December following two rounds of successful presidential and parliamentary elections and the inauguration of the new Government, thus bringing an end

to more than a decade-long United Nations peacekeeping engagement in that country. On the other hand, however, in August, the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), which had been called upon to monitor a cessation of armed violence there and support the full implementation of Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan's six-point plan, had to be terminated only four months after its deployment due to the unabated conflict and unwillingness of the opposing parties to engage in meaningful dialogue to stop the bloodshed.

Elsewhere, while UN missions in Africa were challenged, sometimes to the limits, by their host country specific crises and developments, field operations in the Middle East had to adapt, to a varying degree, to the regional ramifications of the continuing conflict in Syria.

The United Nations also continued to hone its range of tools in peacemaking. Conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and mediation, some of the key priorities established by the Secretary-General in his second term were important markers

for UN peace operations in 2012. A good example of this was in Somalia, where heightened diplomatic efforts, facilitated by the UN Political Office (UNPOS), helped to complete an eight-year political transition with the adoption of a provisional Constitution and the election of a President by a newly established Parliament, the first democratic process of its kind in more than two decades. In Mali, the UN special political mission was established by the Security Council in December to provide coordinated and coherent support to the ongoing political and security processes in that country.

The Year in Review looks at these and other issues and attempts to show how, in practical terms, UN peacekeeping and political missions were supporting in 2012 a range of critical activities vital to maintaining international peace and security, including monitoring ceasefires; stabilizing post-conflict environment; disarming and reintegrating ex-combatants into civilian life; strengthening governance, rule of law, dialogue and reconciliation; protecting civilians and helping build democratic institutions. ■



Major General Robert Mood (centre), Chief Military Observer and Head of the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), meets with members of the opposition in Al-Rastan, Syria, May 2012. (UN Photo/Neeraj Singh)

UN Peacekeeping must adapt to new challenges

Interview with Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

When he took over the position of Under-Secretary-General for the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations in 2011, Hervé Ladsous brought with him the extensive experience from a long career in diplomacy. Now, in his second year as head of DPKO, Mr. Ladsous zeroes in on the past successes, challenges ahead and what is needed to improve the effectiveness of the peacekeeping operations.

Q. What were the biggest challenges for UN peacekeeping in 2012?

Syria, the Sudans and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were among the most challenging situations we faced last year.

In Syria, an observer mission was established in April 2012, but lack of progress in a political resolution and the intensification of armed violence obliged the mission to draw down after four months. Peacekeepers are most effective when they are deployed in support of a viable peace process and when the parties have decided to give peace a chance.

Unresolved post-independence questions led Sudan and South Sudan to the brink of war. At the same time South Sudan was confronted with inter-communal violence, especially in Jonglei state. Our peacekeepers reinforced their patrols and adopted a robust posture to protect civilians. They have also assisted, through mediation efforts, in finding a political solution. I welcome the progress we have seen in recent months, including the signing of a number of agreements between Sudan and South Sudan, and the resumption of oil production and exploitation.

From April, after a new armed group (the M23) caused some of the worst suffering we have seen in eastern DRC, peacekeepers took robust steps to protect civilians. Following the fall of Goma

in November, they evacuated dozens of activists, government officials and journalists opposed to the M23 and whose lives were at risk. This crisis reignited regional political efforts and led to the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, as well as the authorization of a Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) by the Security Council in March 2013, on an exceptional basis. Through the FIB, the Council authorized our peacekeepers to conduct targeted offensive operations to neutralize and disarm armed groups.

One figure, I think, tragically reflects the challenges we faced: In 2012 we lost 111 peacekeepers, many in the line of duty. We mourn every fallen colleague and send our heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

Q. What do you rate as the major accomplishments of UN peacekeeping in 2012?

Timor-Leste comes to mind first. In December, after more than 13 years of a peacekeeping and political presence, our mission left behind a vibrant and rising country. A series of peaceful and free elections had taken place in the meantime. Timorese must be proud of their progress. We are proud to have been part of it.

We can also be proud of the progress we have seen in Haiti, in Liberia or

in Côte d'Ivoire. Our peacekeepers helped Haitians recover from the 2010 earthquake; they supported the second post-conflict election in Liberia; and they helped Côte d'Ivoire consolidate stability. These positive trends are allowing us to reduce our presence in these countries.

Q. In 2013, where do you expect UN peacekeeping to be most active?

Our deployment in Mali, the use of new tools in DRC and, potentially, the evolving situation in Syria rank high on our agenda for 2013. All three contexts are high-risk environments.

In Mali, as we set up our newest operation - taking over from an African-



USG Ladsous briefs journalists on priority areas of the year for UN peacekeeping, February 2012. (UN Photo/JC McIlwaine)

led peace operation (AFISMA) - we are aware of the particular volatility of the situation and the risks posed to our peacekeepers and UN staff more widely. Our peacekeepers will not be conducting counter-terrorism activities; these types of actions will be carried out by others. But they will use force to protect civilians and the UN presence. We are working very closely with our partners, including Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union. We will do our best to support Malian authorities to put in place a legitimate and representative government.

We must be ready to meet new challenges and to adjust to changing security situations.

The DRC will also remain a major challenge, especially as our Force Intervention Brigade takes on the task of neutralizing and disarming armed groups. The deployment of the Brigade has started. The Brigade must be seen in the broader political context of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the region. It is a tool designed to support the peace process, and a way of addressing those who attempt to spoil this peace process. It will also be supported by an additional tool – an unmanned aerial system which will conduct surveillance over impenetrable border areas and give the mission enhanced situational awareness.

We will remain particularly vigilant about the situation in the Middle East. Not only because we need to be ready if the Security Council eventually calls for a peacekeeping mission in Syria when and if a political settlement is reached, but also because the Syrian conflict is already affecting two of our missions (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force,



USG Ladsous and Louis Aucoin (right), Deputy Special Representative (Rule of Law), are greeted at the helipad on arrival in Gbarnga, Liberia. April 2012. (UN Photo/Staton Winter)

UNDOF and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL).

Q. Beyond countries or regions, what do you see as the challenges of the future for UN peacekeeping?

Four related challenges are increasingly facing UN peacekeeping and they are likely to continue in the foreseeable future.

First, UN peacekeepers are increasingly operating in contexts where risks and threats are higher. In Mali, for example, peacekeepers must be prepared for improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers, and other asymmetric threats. We will need improved capacities and innovation to respond. We must be ready to meet new challenges and to adjust to changing security situations. In coming years flexibility will continue to be our focus.

Second, there are concerns on the part of some of our stakeholders that UN peacekeeping may be sliding into roles better left to others, such as enforcement actions. But this is a misperception. The

Council has made clear that United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)'s Intervention Brigade is an exception, not the rule. And again, the Intervention Brigade must be seen in the broader political context as a way of addressing those who attempt to spoil peace efforts.

Third, we must improve the effectiveness and performance of peacekeeping operations. We need to deliver more robustly on our mandates. This requires, for the UN, a clear political framework, adequate capabilities, and adequate political will on the part of our contributors.

The final challenge I see relates to partnerships. UN peacekeeping is a global partnership. We must keep building our partnerships with the Security Council, Member States, regional organizations, and the wider UN family. A significant percentage of our missions are deploying alongside parallel missions and our interaction with other actors is becoming a regular element of our operations that we need to further strengthen. ■

Support to peacekeeping: it's all about the field

Interview with Ameerah Haq, Under-Secretary-General for Department of Field Support

Ameerah Haq has had nearly equal time in the field and at Headquarters in her UN career which spans 37 years, making her an ideal candidate to lead the Department of Field Support. Having done so for the last year, Ms. Haq reflects on what it takes to support a collective 122,000 personnel in peace operations around the globe in a changing economy and changes she would like to see.

Q. You moved from United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to head up the Department of Field Support in mid-2012. What are your impressions and what do you find most interesting about the assignment so far?

We currently support 15 Department of Peacekeeping Operation (DPKO)-led missions, one Department of Field Support (DFS)-led support mission in Somalia, and 21 special political and good offices missions led by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA.) These operations, with some 122,000 personnel, range from support to African Union troops in Somalia to our large peacekeeping missions in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and our mission in Darfur; two regional political offices in western Africa and a range of operations in the Middle East. The magnitude and variety of the challenges we face every day to support such a diverse range of field operations has impressed me.

Just as there is no one-size-fits-all for peacekeeping operations, DFS must be ready to adapt and be flexible in how we do business to ensure teams on the ground receive the support they need in a timely fashion and at the requisite level of high quality. I have been struck by the quiet dedication of DFS colleagues at the Headquarters and in the Missions I have visited, even under the most difficult security and physical conditions and the most demanding time constraints.

Q. Before taking up your position as USG for Field Support you were Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Timor-Leste, coming from your positions as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) in Sudan and prior to that DSRSG in Afghanistan. What have you learned in these mission leadership roles that you will apply to your senior role in Headquarters?

I can sum it up in a simple phrase: it's all about the field. As one who has served in peacekeeping missions for the past decade, I believe firmly in the goal of providing the best possible support to our operations, in terms of quality and in terms of cost-effectiveness, so that peacekeepers can focus on implementing their mandate and addressing the needs of conflict-affected communities.

The safety and security of the men and women working in peacekeeping operations is a top priority. Having served in countries and situations where attacks against peacekeepers were not uncommon, this is an issue very close to my heart. I know first-hand the difficult conditions in which our troops, police and civilian personnel serve. We are committed to doing the utmost for their safety, security and welfare.

Q. How has the global financial crisis affected the work of supporting the field? What is DFS doing to meet the expectations of Member States?



*USG Haq at Headquarters, June 2012.
(UN Photo/JC McIlwaine)*

Like the Member States we serve, we in the Secretariat must seek the efficiencies demanded by the current financial climate. Improving our support to the field means making better use of human and financial resources through economies of scale, specialization, and a clearer division of labour among the key actors in mission support.

This will result in less duplication, less stress and less confusion in how missions are supported: in short, better results and more efficient use of resources.

Q. The Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS) is now half-way through. What can we expect in the second half of its implementation?

The full implementation of the GFSS is key to greater efficiency and use of resources. It will achieve improved support with fewer redundancies and bottlenecks. Achieving the GFSS end state means integrating and improving services in all the pillars of work: human resources, finance, supply modularization, and the service centres. The next two years will be critical. GFSS must become mainstreamed at all levels of mission support: Headquarters, Global Service Center in Brindisi, Regional Service Center in Entebbe and the field missions. Our efforts will focus on achieving a clearer division of labour, more specialization at each of the four levels, and realizing the benefits of economies of scale.

Q. What are some of the main challenges you see for DFS in 2013?

Let me highlight just a few, among many. Just as we support a wide range

of existing field operations, we must also be ready to support new ones or ones going through significant changes. For example, in 2013 we are looking at the establishment of a new peacekeeping mission. The remarkable progress in Somalia means that we are ready to support the relocation of full UN operations inside Somalia, and we are ready to support a reconfiguration of the current mission structures there. We continue to support a small team in Syria, under difficult safety and security conditions, in support of Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi's efforts to help broker an end to the conflict. And the Security Council is discussing new approaches in DRC; this will require maximum flexibility and the ability to move quickly on multiple support fronts will remain critical to success.

Staff conduct and discipline remains a key to successful peacekeeping. Misconduct destroys the confidence in, and support for, the work we do, in particular because such incidents involve the very population we are mandated to protect. We in the Secretariat and in troop-

contributing countries (TCCs) and police-contributing countries (PCCs) must continue to strengthen accountability for prevention, enforcement and response including criminal accountability where warranted—and in accordance with national laws. Victim assistance must also remain a priority.

“The safety and security of the men and women working in peacekeeping operations is a top priority.”

A key personnel issue I want to highlight is our need to address the challenge of improving the recruitment and retention of women in peacekeeping. Increasing the number of women in peacekeeping remains a challenge: currently only 29 per cent of international and 17 per cent of national civilian field staff are women. Despite our efforts, these statistics have remained largely unchanged for several years. ■



USG Haq inspects the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) troops from Rwanda at the team site in Kabkabiya, Darfur North, as part of her four-day trip to Sudan, November 2012. (UNAMID/Albert González Farran)

Pursuing the political solution

Interview with Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

The past year brought new leadership to the Department of Political Affairs, as Jeffrey Feltman took up the position of Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs following a distinguished career as a U.S. diplomat focused mainly on the Middle East. In his current position, USG Feltman advises Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on matters of peace and security globally, while overseeing the work of the organization in preventive diplomacy and mediation.

Q. As a newcomer to the United Nations what have been your first impressions? What are your priorities?

Let me first say how great an honor it was to be chosen for this position and to have an opportunity to help the Secretary-General and the United Nations, an organization I have long admired, as it strives to prevent conflict and promote peace around the world. I feel quite fortunate to be coming to this position at a time of increased focus by the UN leadership and its Member States on using political instruments to deal with conflict. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in our first meeting after my swearing-in last July, emphasized the priority he places on mediation and preventive diplomacy. He sees the potential for preventive diplomacy to spare us from costlier fixes to problems and to spare populations from enduring the costs of war. We are working hard to meet the Secretary-General's expectations on prevention. We are also dealing with complex and sometimes deeply entrenched conflicts where the odds for resolution, I must admit, can be long.

Q. What are the biggest differences for you personally?

Working with a global focus is one big change. After a career focused mostly on one region of the world, it is a fascinating intellectual and professional challenge to now be providing leadership on UN political concerns globally. I have spent

far more time traveling in Africa and Asia than in the Middle East, and I have been helped in climbing a pretty steep learning curve by DPA's impressive staff in Headquarters and in the field. To a certain extent, diplomacy is still diplomacy, but the multilateral setting is also different. I am getting used to working in an organization of 193 Member States, in which the extent of our impact on a given situation can depend greatly on the strength of the coalitions that are built. Of course one of the real strengths and unique features of the United Nations is its impartiality and the values it represents, rooted in the UN Charter.

Q. How is the UN making better use of political instruments such as diplomacy to prevent and resolve conflict?

We are doing a lot of work in this area, but perhaps it is a story that is not being told as well as it could. Everybody is familiar with peacekeepers and the UN's humanitarian operations. Preventive diplomacy and mediation are by nature more discreet, and their impact more difficult to measure. But it is important to keep in mind that at the heart of most conflicts are political issues requiring political solutions in order to bring them to any kind of lasting resolution.

We have political instruments that focus in these areas, particularly the more than two dozen political missions currently



USG Feltman speaks to the press at the noon briefing, New York. (UN Photo/Rick Bajornas)

working in Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East. While working sometimes under the radar, they play a constant role in trying to foster dialogue and reconciliation in countries undergoing tension or recovering from conflict. They are a key platform in the field to launch preventive diplomacy initiatives.

We also have travelling envoys who are mediating actively between parties in conflict. We increasingly focus our electoral assistance in ways that can help to discourage elections from becoming flashpoints for conflict.

Within DPA we have been transforming our work in mediation by building up our expertise and our ability to deploy

it quickly to the field. Last year alone, the members of our Standby Team of mediation experts deployed on more than 70 occasions to over 30 countries.

Q. What have been your main concerns in Africa?

We have a wide range of concerns in Africa. The two issues highest on my agenda regarding Africa have been Mali and Somalia.

Until relatively recently, Mali was considered a bulwark of democracy in West Africa. Obviously, as we can see in hindsight, there were deep problems below the surface, linked to broader fragilities across the Sahel band.

The United Nations fully shares the view that there needs to be a full restoration of Mali's democracy and its territory, and we have strongly backed the military actions that have been taken, first by France, and then African countries, to reverse the push by armed groups in the north.

Our own role in Mali has had to adjust to the rapidly changing circumstances on the ground. The Security Council late in the year authorized a multidisciplinary office in Bamako, UNOM, which was deployed in January under DPA's leadership. UNOM has worked to make UN advice and expertise available on aspects such as mediation, reconciliation, elections and human rights.

All signs point now to the transition to a peacekeeping operation in Mali. While military stabilization is indeed crucial, we believe it will be equally important to keep concentrating on the political track because without political progress in Mali, the security gains will not be sustainable. A political process is needed to end the crisis and address the root causes of the conflict and instability in Mali: the longstanding situation of the Tuareg and other minorities, the

democratic reform of the security forces and reconciliation.

Q. Somalia finished its long period of transitional administration last year. How hopeful are you for Somalia's future?

Somalia still has a hard-to-shake reputation as a failed state, yet Somalia is experiencing some truly hopeful progress for the first time in many years. I could see this in Mogadishu, which is undergoing a type of construction boom and even a renaissance of sorts. And I could really feel the enthusiasm of the leadership which came into place last year after concluding the most representative political process in many years in Somalia.

“It is important to keep in mind that at the heart of most conflicts are political issues requiring political solutions in order to bring them to any kind of lasting resolution.”

The security improvements are substantial, thanks to the sacrifices of the African peacekeepers alongside Somalia forces, and thanks to their success in pushing the Shabaab out of Mogadishu and other areas. The political progress in 2012 was remarkable. The UN's political mission, UNPOS, played an important role in encouraging dialogue and compromise between Somalis.

I would not want to underestimate the challenges still present in Somalia. State institutions in many cases lack the capacity to deliver on even the most basic social services. Security remains fragile, and the Government has a lot of work to do in reaching out to all groups and all regions of Somalia.

Still, we believe Somalis do have before them the best opportunity in a generation to rebuild their country and offer a better future. And, we in the United Nations, and in the Department of Political Affairs, are preparing an entirely new political mission to be established in Mogadishu in 2013 under the authority of the Security Council, to help nurture these new directions, while ensuring that Somalis play the key role.

Q. The Middle East and North Africa remain a major concern at the United Nations. How do you assess the continued transitions and turbulence in the Arab world?

There have been historic transitions in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen, but there are major fragilities still in all of these places. In Syria, we have a full blown tragedy that is rippling outward in the region.

In countries that you could once have described as having strong authoritarian states with weak popular legitimacy, you now in some cases have stronger legitimacy but weaker states. And all of these states are struggling to deliver on expectations and to govern inclusively.

The Secretary-General has been outspoken to encourage real reforms as opposed to grudging cosmetic changes. We are providing assistance where it is desired, while acknowledging that the transitions are nationally-led.

In Egypt and Tunisia, the UN's message in the broadest sense has been to stay true to the ideals of the revolutions. In Libya, we have a political mission on the ground to support the transition. Perhaps the most tangible example I can give is the role we played in helping Libya to organize last year's historic elections. There is still much to be done in that country, but one should not forget the size of challenges of building a democratic state after 40 years of dictatorship.

In Yemen, we are also seeing fragile progress. We supported the Gulf countries in brokering the 2011 transition agreement, and I believe that agreement likely prevented civil war. There are still deep stresses in Yemen. We have worked hard to help prepare for a national dialogue, and hope this is successful in 2013.

Q. Can you say more about Syria and what the UN has been doing to try to bring that conflict to an end?

Syria is occupying a great deal of our time and energy; however there has been little hope so far for a peaceful settlement. There was a major effort to broker a cease-fire through the mediation of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, working on behalf of the United Nations and the League of Arab States. Cease-fire monitors were deployed by the peacekeeping department in support of that political process. As we know, however, the cease-fire did not hold for long.

Lakhdar Brahimi took up the mediation effort halfway through the year, and an office was established to support his work in Damascus, backed by DPA. Still, the military dynamic has thus far prevailed.

The toll of the conflict in Syria is horrifying: more than 70,000 dead, more than a million refugees and four million people inside Syria in need of aid; appalling atrocities, and serious spillover in the region. We are particularly concerned about Lebanon, which so far is showing remarkable resilience.

On the humanitarian side, we are doing our utmost to deliver aid, in both government and opposition-held areas. In the end, however, humanitarian action does not really solve the problem. There must be a political process leading to a transition in Syria. If there is such a thing as military victory in Syria, in our view it would be far too costly.



USG Feltman disembarks from a plane after arriving at Aden Abdulle International Airport for his first visit to Somalia. (AU-UN IST PHOTO/Stuart Price)

One of the factors that really hurt the mediation has been the lack of unity in the Security Council, which translated into less leverage behind diplomacy. This has been a major failure of the international community.

A political solution will be difficult, but we have no option but to continue searching for it. The end goal must be a clean break from the past.

Q. Lastly, what are the prospects for a renewed peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians? What are the risks if this doesn't happen?

On Israel-Palestine, throughout the past year we expressed serious concern that the window for a two-state solution was closing. Amid a region in flux, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict cannot and will not stand still.

We saw the volatility last November with the latest upsurge in fighting regarding Gaza. The situation was serious enough that the Secretary-General flew into the region himself to contribute to the Egyptian efforts to broker a cease-fire. The UN's political mission on the ground, UNSCO, played a helpful role through its networks.

There is real frustration with the lack of political progress, which I think was evidenced in the vote on Palestine in the UN General Assembly. Yet there is no substitute for negotiations to achieve the needed two-state solution.

Right now we see a new opportunity to try to push again seriously toward a final status agreement.

We strongly encourage US engagement. The United States undoubtedly has a critical role to play in fact and the visit of President Obama was a hopeful signal. A revitalized Quartet and key Arab states should be engaged.

The Israelis and the Palestinians need to engage constructively with any new initiatives and refrain from actions that erode trust. For Israel, this means a stop to settlement activity in contravention of international law. At the same time, the Palestinians need to understand that Israel's legitimate security concerns must be addressed and there should be an end to the inflammatory rhetoric from Gaza.

We at the United Nations are prepared to support any credible initiative. ■



*Indian Peacekeepers in MONUSCO (DRC) with armored vehicle watching over Bunagana and Ruyoni hill, strong hold of M23 fighters, May 2012.
(MONUSCO/Sylvain Liechti)*

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS



MINURSO

Ensuring a path to safety

“I joined the United Nations because it gives me the chance to contribute to the peace process in different parts of the world,” says Major Jose Amador, a United Nations Military Observer (UNMO) serving in Mijek, Western Sahara. Major Amador is one of over 200 UNMOs from 29 countries ensuring that the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) meets its mandate, under the direction of Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who took up the post in June 2012. As UNMOs travel thousands of kilometres per month in the course of their duties, the MINURSO Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) endeavours to protect UNMOs along with the local population

from the dangers of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) throughout the territory.

Sixteen years of fighting between the Royal Moroccan Army and Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro forces (Frente POLISARIO) left a legacy of landmines and ERW, which have claimed the lives of over 2,500 people on both sides of the earthen berm dividing Western Sahara. In 1991, MINURSO was established to monitor the ceasefire between the two parties to the conflict. Military Agreements 2 and 3, which were signed between MINURSO and both parties in 1999, aim to reduce the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) through the exchange

of information and by marking and destroying mines and UXO.

The Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) in coordination with MINURSO and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) serves as the mine action focal point within MINURSO, providing landmine safety briefings and refresher training to all UN personnel. Since its inception, the MACC has briefed over 1,200 UN personnel on the dangers of landmines and ERW. It has also provided landmine/ERW threat data to the mission, which is then used in maps and GPS for UNMOs serving at the team sites.



AOAV/Mechem deminer works in a minefield in Mijek, Western Sahara, May 2012. (MINURSO MACC)



AOAV/Mechem Technical Advisor briefs MINURSO UNMOs in Mijek, Western Sahara, June 2012. (MINURSO MACC)

Clearing the tracks

Additionally, the MACC works in partnership with an international non-governmental organisation, Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), and a commercial contractor, Mechem, to survey and clear tracks for routes for UNMO patrols on the east side of the berm. Survey and clearance activities ultimately serve to facilitate the monitoring of the parties' compliance to the ceasefire as UNMOs conduct an average of 700 ground patrols covering 100,000 km of routes per month on both sides of the berm.

The training and technical assistance that the MACC and its partners provide ensures that UNMOs safely perform their duties. "The MACC continuously shares information, helping UNMOs to avoid suspected mined areas and conduct

operations in a safe manner. AOAV is also an excellent support for demining activities as they clear minefields and dangerous areas in order to help the civilians of Western Sahara", says Major Amador. And, he adds "the job is not easy, but the final, the most important task is for UNMOs to help the population."

"The job is not easy, but the final, the most important task is for UNMOs to help the population."

Through survey and clearance along with the provision of training and landmine/ERW threat data, the MACC continues to support the important work of UNMOs like Major Amador to help advance

de-mining activities in Western Sahara, which are a centrepiece of MINURSO's mandate.

Unfortunately, the job for MINURSO personnel does not seem to be getting any easier. Escalating violence and tensions across the Sahel, resulting from growing jihadist movements and vulnerable governments in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, are responsible for a volatile security situation in large swaths of land that make up the Sahel. UNMOs will need to be more vigilant in exercising their powers of observation and information-sharing as the threat levels rise as a result of turmoil in the region. Dealing with the conflict in Western Sahara will be that much more of a challenge, but the dedicated staff at MINURSO will also rise to the occasion to ensure the safety and security of the population. ■

MINUSTAH

From reconstruction to stabilization

In 2012, much like in the previous two years, for Haiti, the focus was both on strengthening the national police and on reconstruction, following the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010.

On 12 October, while extending the UN peacekeeping mission's mandate for a year, the Security Council adopted a resolution that marked a shift back to its original priorities. Indeed the Council emphasized the critical importance of the development of Haiti's National Police (HNP); a central task for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH.) At the same time, the Council endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to reduce the mission's military component by 1,070 troops to 6,270. The reduction was an acknowledgement of the progress made in the area of reconstruction. It brought MINUSTAH's military strength significantly below its pre-2010 earthquake strength of 6,940 troops.

Over the course of 2012, MINUSTAH Police trained 4,889 participants from the Haitian National Police in a wide range of basic and specialized topics, from crime scene management and investigations to firearms and defense tactics. UN police trainers thus passed on knowledge critical to a professionalized police service. By increasing the skills and capacities of Haitian officers, UN peacekeepers are laying the groundwork for sustainability and helping their national counterparts to build safer communities for all.

By the end of the year, however, with the graduation of only 239 new cadets on 21 December, the 23rd Haitian National Police promotion fell far short of the minimum of 1,000 cadets required per promotion. This appears to have been due in part to the rigorousness of medical tests and the short duration and limited geographic coverage of recruitment campaigns. The Haitian National Police

is working closely with MINUSTAH to address these issues in order to ensure that the 24th promotion comprises at least 1,000 cadets. Already a recruitment campaign for 2013 has seen more than a doubling of the number of applicants registering for admission exams.

In 2012, much like in the previous two years, for Haiti, the focus was both on strengthening the national police and on reconstruction.

As the capacity of the HNP increases, further reductions in the mission's uniformed strength over the coming year and beyond will be considered by the Security Council. For the time being, although the performance of Haiti National Police has continued to



MINUSTAH's Community Violence Reduction program is employing 1,345 local residents in a Cash for Work program building rock walls and planting vegetation as a way of saving arable land and avoiding flooding in lower areas, May 2012. (MINUSTAH/Logan Abassi)



Deputy Chief of MINUSTAH Nigel Fisher looks on as engineers from the Haitian government team up with military engineers from MINUSTAH to clean up a major canal in downtown Port-au-Prince, May 2012. (MINUSTAH/Victoria Hazou)

improve, the institution is not yet in a position to assume full responsibility for the provision of internal security throughout the country. As a result, MINUSTAH military and police personnel continue to play a vital role in maintaining overall security and stability.

Progress in reconstruction

On the reconstruction front, once again the country benefited from the assistance of UN peacekeepers. In the wake of the 2010 earthquake, the United Nations Security Council tasked MINUSTAH with a unique mandate: the mission was to help the Government in post-disaster efforts. Since then, MINUSTAH has played a pivotal role in the coordination and mobilization of international financial and logistical resources.

Building on its previous engagements, by mid-2012, MINUSTAH has helped its partners (Government authorities, non-governmental organizations or other associations) complete more than 550 infrastructure rehabilitation projects. The mission's support focused on five post-

earthquake priority areas identified by the Government of Haiti: the construction or renovation of public buildings, the rehabilitation and protection of the environment, the supply of electricity and solar lighting, the construction or rehabilitation of roads and bridges, and the improvement of water and sanitation infrastructure.

In line with these priorities, MINUSTAH's contingents contributed in the reconstruction efforts. In Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, Brazilian peacekeepers dredged canals and repaired roads. Troops from Chile and Ecuador helped resettle internally displaced people into their original communities by constructing new roads. In the West department, the Korean brigade drilled wells and drained rivers. As a result, they provided greater access to drinking water and prevented flooding in Léogane and Gressier, two of the areas most affected by the earthquake. In the North-West and Artibonite departments, Indonesian troops repaired roads while Japanese peacekeepers built schools, drained canals and collected debris. At the same time, Paraguayan engineers were repairing the

security perimeter of Haiti's International Airport in Port-au-Prince.

Encouragingly, as reconstruction went on, some progress was recorded on the political side too. In May, after months of deadlock, a new Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe, took office. In July the Superior Council of the Judiciary – provided for in a 2007 law to strengthen the independence of the judiciary – was finally established.

In a report issued in October, the Secretary-General noted, however, that “the political process in Haiti remains vulnerable to setbacks linked to political instability, lack of respect for the rule of law and unmet social grievances.” Indeed crucial reforms remained elusive. Chief among them, the process to establish the country's first Permanent Electoral Council stalled leading to the postponement of legislative, municipal and local elections. In response, the Security Council called on Haitian authorities to hold free, fair, inclusive and credible elections by the end of 2013. ■

MONUSCO

Progress interrupted

For the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the United Nations peacekeeping mission it hosts, 2012 could have been another year of steady progress. Initially at least, positive indications seemed to be everywhere.

First, the political stalemate over another round of general elections was reaching its end. President Joseph Kabila and his allies had been declared winners of both the Presidential and the legislative contests, prompting an outcry from their opponents. But with most observers judging the process acceptable, elected officials on all sides had decided to put an end to the deadlock. By early March, representatives from all parties had joined the national assembly. It was a welcome step in the right direction.

Equally promising, in the often crisis-prone eastern provinces, armed groups

had started the year on the back foot. Robust efforts by the Congolese armed forces supported by UN peacekeepers had led to unprecedented gains. Among others, attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, one of the most notorious armed groups present in the country's eastern region, had dropped to historic levels. Increasingly, civilians in eastern DRC were starting to enjoy a semblance of normal life.

New crisis, old grievances

From early April, however, in the North Kivu province, soldiers of the *Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) mutinied. They formed a group calling itself the Movement of 23 March or M23, and gathered in the hills near the Virunga National Park.

Their name is a reference to an agreement between the government of the DRC and another armed group, the *Congrès National pour la Démocratie et le Progrès* (CNDP), signed on 23 March 2009. The deal—aimed at ending a previous political and military crisis—had not been implemented, the M23 contended.

By the end of the year a total of 2.7 million people had been displaced in the Kivus, up by a million on 2011.

In the following weeks, the group proceeded to take over large territories from the FARDC. After fierce combat, it captured the town of Bunagana, on the border between DRC and Uganda, on 6 July. From there, the M23 progressed further towards Goma, the provincial capital.

By September, the mutiny had displaced around 260,000 persons within the country, and 60,000 more had fled to neighboring Rwanda and Uganda. As civilians fled their homes, reports of serious human rights violations emerged. These included recruitment of child soldiers and summary executions by the M23. Reports also indicated that the group was establishing de facto administration in areas under its control while appearing to receive external support.

As the M23 mutiny intensified and other armed groups benefited from the security



Anti-Government and pro-M23 demonstration in Goma, November 2012. (MONUSCO/Sylvain Liechti)



M23 rebels leave the city of Goma on looted trucks, November 2012. (MONUSCO/Sylvain Liechti)

vacuum it caused, many more civilians fled their homes. By the end of the year a total of 2.7 million people had been displaced in the Kivus, up by a million on 2011.

Faced with a deteriorating situation, the UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) stepped up its efforts. It intensified its support to Congolese forces and multiplied patrols to better protect civilians. On the political front, the United Nations sought to support ongoing regional diplomatic efforts.

On 27 September, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a High-Level Summit on the situation in eastern DRC. With both President Kabila from the DRC and President Kagame from Rwanda in attendance—along with other dignitaries—the Secretary-General noted that a decade earlier, it was an all-inclusive agreement that ended the country’s last major conflict. Now, he urged, the DRC needed a similar commitment from all actors. His words reflected an urgent need for action to end the suffering of thousands of civilians. But a political solution remained elusive.

Political framework

On 17 November, despite wide condemnation, including from the Security Council, the M23 took control of Goma as the Congolese armed forces retreated. The move marked a turning point in the crisis.

In the absence of Congolese armed forces—which MONUSCO’s peacekeepers are mandated to support—the mission provided much needed assistance to Goma’s civilians. UN peacekeepers brought to safety dozens of well-known figures whose lives were most immediately at risk following their public opposition to the M23, including civil society leaders, human rights defenders, journalists, activists, judges and administration officials.

As they invaded Goma and its surroundings, M23 combatants were accused of serious human rights violations. Accusations were also made against retreating FARDC troops. In Minova, 20km from Goma, initial reports indicated that some 126 women and girls were raped by members of the retreating national army. MONUSCO soon started investigating.

The International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) intensified its regional diplomatic efforts in response, with support from the United Nations. As a result, early in December, the M23 left Goma and some of the other territories it had occupied. Negotiations between the group and the government of the DRC opened days later in Kampala, Uganda, led by the ICGLR.

At the same time, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon pursued his efforts for the adoption of a regional framework to address the root causes of the crisis in eastern DRC. The challenges posed by the M23 mutiny provided a new window of opportunity for a comprehensive solution to long-standing problems in the eastern DRC, and to bring to an end the repeated cycles of violence which have plagued communities in the east for over a decade.

With the Security Council requesting options for how to strengthen MONUSCO as part of this wider review, DPKO completed the year preparing for this new, strengthened approach. ■

UNAMID

Protection of civilians, peace process at the forefront

The conflict in Darfur is multi-faceted, complex and, like many other conflicts, does not respond to the usual prescriptions or solutions. The Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement adopted, on 14 July 2011, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), which was considered a substantive achievement of the peace process. However, it fell short in reaching an inclusive and comprehensive resolution to the conflict, as the major Darfur armed movements held out and did not sign. To address this issue, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations adopted a joint framework based on three pillars: DDPD implementation; negotiations between the Sudanese Government and holdout groups; and Darfur internal conference and dialogue.

While the provisions of the Doha Document are being implemented slowly, the AU-UN mediation team continues its efforts, including dialogue and confidence-building measures with the holdout movements to bring them on board. These efforts, with the support of the State of Qatar and other partners, have yielded some encouraging outcomes. On 22 October 2012, a prominent group of field commanders of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) signed with the Government of Sudan, a Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities and Commitment to the Peace Process.

The mandate and work of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) is challenging. Aside from supporting

efforts toward an inclusive peace agreement, it partners closely with civil society organizations, traditional leaders, internally displaced persons (IDPs), women and youth groups to address local-level conflicts and promote reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. In 2012 alone, the mission conducted 52 workshops on local conflict resolution and mediation across the vast area of Darfur, with more than 5,000 Darfuris participating. These forums and the lessons learned, together with the mission's support, helped initiate reconciliation efforts between tribes and communities.

Locally mediated agreements helped ease tension in July 2012, when several died as a result of tribal fighting over land use in South Darfur. The following month, a



UNAMID peacekeeper First Lieutenant Sigit Jatmiko, of the Indonesia Formed Police Unit, interacts with children in Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons (North Darfur), during a morning patrol, El Fasher, August 2012. (UNAMID/Albert Gonzalez Farran)

dispute over access to farmland triggered clashes between nomads and IDPs near El Daein, East Darfur. In seeking a resolution, UNAMID worked with local authorities and traditional leaders to promote reconciliation between the groups to ease the tensions.

Bringing about peace and stability to Darfur undoubtedly is a process that involves the commitment of the international community and the determination of the Darfuris.

Protection of the civilian population, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Government of Sudan, is the core mandate of the mission. The civilian population is generally the victim of inter-communal fighting, clashes between the Government and armed movements, and competition over scarce resources. In response, the mission has increased its patrols in and around the towns and camps for those displaced. Also, UNAMID has worked to foster farmer-pastoralist relations during the harvest season to reduce the chances of clashes.

In addition, the mission has revised its Protection of Civilian Strategy, which includes an early-warning mechanism to prevent and contain outbreaks of violence. The multidimensional strategy is designed to strengthen the relationship between UNAMID and the local community, combining physical protection of the population on the ground with enhanced political engagement.

Despite some success, many challenges remain. Bringing about peace and stability in Darfur undoubtedly is a process that involves the commitment of the international community and the determination of the Darfuris. ■



A young woman works on the construction of a community centre in Althoura Shemal in El Fasher, North Darfur, as part of a Community-Based Labour-Intensive Project (CLIP) sponsored by UNAMID DDR (Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Section), August 2012. (UNAMID/Albert Gonzalez Farran)

Building peace in Darfuri communities

The people of Althoura Shemal district in El Fasher, North Darfur, are enthusiastic about the new community centre built by 80 young men and women from the area. The youths have been participating in a new UNAMID initiative called community-based labour-intensive projects (CLIPs).

Over the course of three months, the participants developed new skills as masons, painters and electricians. More importantly, they learned how to work as a team.

“The unemployment in the area is high,” says sheik (community leader) Ahmed Hashim Adam. “We need to train the youth because they don’t have any occupation.”

While the profiles of the participants may be diverse, the young workers all share a passion for acquiring new vocational skills and having a rewarding experience. Ms. Huda Abdallah Mohamed, a 32-year-old CLIPs participant, had never worked

outside her home, but now is planning to look for a job. “I learned from this project how to build and how to work with other people,” she says.

Even university graduates are finding value in the CLIPs program. Mr. Abdallah Adam Harun, a 25-year-old university graduate with a degree in electrical engineering, is a beneficiary of the training. If he doesn’t find a job in his field of study, he explains, he may seek work in construction. “My father asks me every morning to go to work at the project and make the community proud,” he says. “I have already applied my new knowledge in doing some repairs at my own house.”

In 2012, UNAMID’s Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section implemented 18 CLIPs throughout Darfur to address the needs of at-risk youth in violence-affected communities. ■

UNDOF

Challenged like never before

The deteriorating situation in Syria in 2012 presented the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) with serious and violent challenges, not least of which was the wounding of five Blue Helmets in a fire fight near Damascus in November. By year's end, the situation had continued to deteriorate.

Despite almost daily firing of mortars, tanks, machine guns and anti-aircraft guns from inside and outside its area of operation, UNDOF not only complied with its 1974 mandate to maintain an Area of Separation (AOS) between Israel and Syria without serious incident, but was also able to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with the passage of persons through the AOS, and continued to clear mine fields which are a danger to the local population.

In response to these developments, UNDOF adapted its operational posture and assumed the necessary security measures to ensure the safety and security of its personnel.

On 29 November, an UNDOF convoy carrying troops scheduled to rotate out of the mission came under fire close to the Damascus International Airport, resulting in injuries to five peacekeepers. The convoy came under gun fire in an area of Damascus where military operations between the Syrian armed forces and

armed members of the opposition was taking place.

Assuming new security measures

A few days earlier, Syrian arms fire in the Israeli-occupied area was followed by a response from Israel. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on both countries to exercise restraint and ceasefire. His spokesperson said, "As today's incident illustrates, the ongoing clashes between the Syrian armed forces and the armed members of the opposition affect UNDOF's operations and pose a serious risk to United Nations personnel on the ground."

In response to these developments, UNDOF adapted its operational posture and assumed the necessary security measures to ensure the safety and security of its personnel. This included using armoured cars, imposing vehicle movement restrictions, enhancing patrols and restricting movement as necessary. In addition, a third platoon was added to the Force Headquarters Company to support its activities.

In parallel with these developments, the mission continued to implement the rehabilitation programme to maintain and upgrade its equipment and infrastructure in an effort to maintain UNDOF's operational and security capacity. New long-range observation equipment, night vision devices, and armoured vehicles were procured and deployed with a view to enhancing force protection, and specialized training was provided where necessary. ■



The Commanding Officer of Force HQ Company, Capt. Christoph Seirer, briefs the platoon leaders, November 2012. (UNDOF/Sgt. Thomas Zoehrer)

UNFICYP

A delicate balancing act in Cyprus

The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) aims first and foremost to prevent a recurrence of fighting between the opposing military forces and to contribute to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions. Its mandate requires reconciling security considerations and the maintenance of the military status quo with the need to allow Cypriots who live and work in the buffer zone to pursue civilian activities and enjoy full and productive lives. Such an approach helps build confidence between the communities and contributes to the overall United Nations effort in support of the peace process.

In 2012, UNFICYP enhanced its activities along the 180-kilometer buffer zone which, in turn, resulted in an increased workload for the mission's three components: police, military and civil affairs. Whether in terms of effective

police patrolling, military interaction with opposing forces or facilitating civilian activities in the buffer zone, UNFICYP is rising to the challenge of “doing more with less.”

UNFICYP is rising to the challenge of “doing more with less.”

With a view to preventing the escalation of tensions, UNFICYP continued to resist regular attempts by both opposing forces to effect low-level changes to the military status quo across the buffer zone. An effective observation, reporting and liaison infrastructure, underpinned by regular patrolling, enabled issues to be resolved at the lowest appropriate

levels and was an important element in maintaining confidence and stability.

Maintaining the buffer zone

UNFICYP police assisted and facilitated a number of investigations by the parties' respective police services into criminal and other incidents that occurred within the buffer zone. It maintained close contacts with local authorities to intercept smuggling, hunting and burglaries. UNFICYP police also continued to provide escorts for convoys taking people and supplies to the Kokkina enclave and humanitarian assistance to the Karpas and the Maronite villages.

The mission fostered a return to normal conditions in the buffer zone by approving dozens of civilian projects for both communities, mainly for the construction of houses and commercial ventures such as photovoltaic parks. To support such activities, UNFICYP regularly facilitated the provision of basic services to both communities and the improvement and maintenance of essential infrastructure for public utilities and services in the buffer zone.

UNFICYP also continued to address day-to-day humanitarian and welfare issues faced by Greek Cypriots and Maronites residing in the north and by Turkish Cypriots residing in the south. In the north, these include concerns over the deteriorating health of elderly Greek Cypriots and Maronites and the absence of Greek-speaking doctors to treat these patients. For the Turkish Cypriots in the south, the mission helped to address



UNFICYP Observation Post #09, Xerovounos Forest, November 2012. (UNFICYP/Martin Mruz)



UNFICYP peacekeepers patrolling the buffer zone on bicycles, Nicosia, October 2011. (UNFICYP/Rastislav Ochotnický)

issues related to welfare and impediments to religious worship. UNFICYP also facilitated religious and commemorative events, involving more than 5,000 people, which are held in the buffer zone or require crossings to either side.

In 2012, UNFICYP enhanced its activities along the 180-kilometer buffer zone.

In 2012, UNFICYP also assisted in addressing legal and humanitarian issues related to the imprisonment of Turkish Cypriots in the south, and of Maronite and Greek Cypriots in the north and the temporary detention of individuals on both sides. UNFICYP conducted weekly visits and facilitated family visits to

inmates at detention facilities in the other community to ascertain the conditions and welfare of those serving sentences.

UNFICYP continued its weekly delivery of humanitarian assistance to 347 Greek Cypriots and 126 Maronites in the north. UNFICYP also observed the functioning of the Greek Cypriot schools in the Karpas peninsula. The mission facilitated the supply of textbooks and teaching aids to the schools, although some delay in Turkish Cypriot approvals meant that this was completed after the commencement of the school year.

Keeping the calm

UNFICYP also supported civil society initiatives that foster bicomunal cooperation and reconciliation. In 2012, UNFICYP lent support to a variety of bicomunal projects in the buffer zone

implemented by UNDP and its local partners. In October, UNFICYP supported an inter-regional civil society conference in the buffer zone, between the Ledra Palace Hotel crossing points, organized by a Cypriot civil society network, which brought together 200 civil society delegates from 28 countries working on reconciliation in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Cyprus.

In essence, UNFICYP continued to play an essential role on the island by exercising authority in the buffer zone and contributing to keeping the calm and to the resolution of various issues affecting the everyday lives of both communities. However, its ability to play this role depended on the commitment of the sides to refrain from challenging the authority and legitimacy of UNFICYP in the buffer zone. ■

UNIFIL

Helping to stabilize a region in turmoil

The year 2012 was one of the most violent in the recent history of the Middle East as the civil war in Syria led to the death of tens of thousands of civilians and forced more than one million people to leave their homes.

Thousands of refugees entered Lebanon from Syria and several incidents of cross-border shelling and small-arms fire between government forces and rebels were reported.

For neighbouring Lebanon, the war proved to be a little too close to home. Fighting broke out in the summer between supporters and opponents of the Syrian Government in Beirut and in the northern city of Tripoli. A series of kidnappings also contributed to an escalation of tensions.

The spillover effect from the violence in Syria has raised concerns that Lebanon

could plunge back into the internecine violence it endured during its 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990.

This regional crisis posed great challenges to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)—the UN peacekeeping mission established in 1978 with a mandate to ensure that the area between the so-called Blue Line—separating Israel and Lebanon—and the Litani River is free of unauthorized weapons, personnel and assets.

Among its tasks, UNIFIL cooperates with the Lebanese Armed Forces so they can fulfill their security responsibilities under resolution 1701, which ended the month-long fighting between Israel and the Lebanese group Hezbollah over the summer of 2006.

During 2012, the government decided to move some of its forces out of UNIFIL's

area of responsibility, to redeploy them to potential flashpoints elsewhere in the country.

Enhancing operations

This led to some concerns that the situation south of the Litani River and along the Blue Line could become unstable and the hostilities between Israel and Lebanon could resume.

UNIFIL responded to the redeployment of some Lebanese troops by enhancing its operational activities to maintain security and stability in its area of operation in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF).

These coordinated efforts have proven to be overwhelmingly successful so far. However, on two occasions unidentified armed groups attempted to launch



UNIFIL peacekeeper in an observation post watching over the Blue Line at the UNIFIL Indian position 4-7c near the mountain town of Cheeba, South Lebanon, April 2012. (UN Photo/Pasqual Gorriz)



UNIFIL Finnish peacekeeper leaving UN post 6-30 over the Blue Line for a patrol in armored vehicles, June 2012. (UN Photo/Pasqual Gorriz)

rockets from Lebanon into northern Israel, coinciding with the timing of the conflict in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel from 14 to 21 November 2012.

UNIFIL commended

When the Security Council extended the Force’s mandate until 31 August 2013, it commended the positive role of UNIFIL, saying its deployment together with LAF has helped to establish “a new strategic environment in southern Lebanon.” The Council further welcomed the expansion of coordinated activities between UNIFIL and LAF, and called for further enhancement of this cooperation.

In addition to the ongoing conflict in Syria, UNIFIL has many challenges ahead and it remains a major part of the international efforts to bring peace to the peoples of the region.

Speaking to the Security Council about the challenges facing UNIFIL, the Force

Commander and head of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, Major-General Paolo Serra, said that the success of his mission is contingent on effectively addressing the root causes of the conflict between Israel and the Lebanese group, Hezbollah.

UNIFIL has many challenges ahead and it remains a major part of the international efforts to bring peace to the peoples of the region.

“Resolution 1701 is just a tool which can only be effective if the political will of the parties involved is translated into action,” said Maj.-Gen. Serra. He added that, ultimately, UNIFIL’s success is dependent on success in the political context.

“As a peacekeeping operation, UNIFIL supports diplomatic efforts to reach

a political solution, but it cannot be a substitute for political progress,” he said.

“It will thus be vital to take advantage of the window of opportunity that UNIFIL’s presence has created, to make progress towards the establishment of a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution of the conflict.”

While helping to ensure continued stability in its area of operation in Lebanon, UNIFIL was also able to help UN humanitarian efforts in neighboring Syria.

The valuable work of UNIFIL in maintaining security in the volatile Middle East has taken a new, critical dimension with the conflict in Syria threatening to further destabilize the region. As the United Nations continues to help Syrians and press for a political solution, UNIFIL will continue its mission for stability and peace. ■

UNISFA

Volatility to stability

A few weeks before the birth of the Republic of South Sudan, the UN Security Council authorized the establishment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) on 27 June 2011.

The Council action came after a military operation by the Sudanese army in Abyei, which displaced 110,000 persons and resulted in widespread looting and damage to property.

The UNISFA force, comprising 4,200 Ethiopian troops, was rapidly deployed in very challenging conditions under the leadership Lt. Gen. Tadesse Wareda Tesfay of Ethiopia, who was appointed as the Head of Mission and Force Commander. The challenges emanated not just from the political situation but also the rainy season, which made movement extremely difficult in the area.

More than 13,500 people had returned to their homes by the end of December 2012.

UNISFA's mandate, under Chapter VII, includes overseeing the demilitarization of this resource-rich area contested by Sudan and South Sudan and maintaining security. Since the deployment of the force, barring some incidents of inter-communal violence, the mission has been able to maintain relative stability and calm in the area. Between November 2011 and May 2012, armed forces and police of Sudan and South Sudan moved outside the Abyei area boundary.

UNISFA continued its efforts to fill the security vacuum in Abyei resulting

from the absence of any government or police institutions there. These efforts included strengthening the joint security committees, regular interaction and dialogue with the local communities and promoting inter-communal dialogue between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya groups. The force also continued to focus on quick-impact projects to promote conflict prevention initiatives.

Migration

In 2011, with the onset of the dry season in October and improvement in the road conditions, which enhanced the reach and security presence of UNISFA, the annual migration of the Misseriya nomads southwards through the Abyei area commenced. The migration went off peacefully. However, the start of the 2012 migration was marred by clashes in November when some Misseriya tribal leaders were attacked by Ngok Dinka community members while travelling through the town in a bus. Barring this, UNISFA kept the situation peaceful by implementing its conflict prevention and mitigation strategy, which included the creation of buffer zones around the Ngok Dinka-dominated areas, the diversion of the migratory route and the provision of water points for the nomads outside the buffer zones. Further, the head of the mission engaged key community leaders to obtain commitments for a peaceful conduct of the migration season and to mitigate tensions over resources. UNISFA also established a number of Joint Security Committees (JSCs) in order to ensure that local communities participate in and take ownership of their



Ethiopian soldiers watch a returnee at work in Abyei, March 2012. (UNISFA/Lieutenant-Colonel Gabreeziabher Tesfamariam Berhe)



Ethiopian Battalion soldiers interacting with returnees at Abyei, March 2012. (UNISFA/Lieutenant-Colonel Gabreeziabber Tesfamariam Berbe)

security-related issues. This has served as an effective early warning and conflict mitigation tool.

UN agencies, working with partners, continued to support approximately 110,000 persons displaced from Abyei as well as the returnees. More than 13,500 people had returned to their homes by the end of December 2012. In order to support the IDPs and the returnees, UNISFA implemented Quick Impact Projects for the rehabilitation of water supply, carried out maintenance work in schools and hospitals, constructed water yards for cattle and did general maintenance of roads.

Outstanding issues

The overall progress in the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement on Temporary Security Arrangements for Abyei has been slow even though the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) has continued to meet. In 2012, the Secretary-General and the Security Council noted that Sudan and South Sudan had not been able to finalize an administration for the area as well as a police service in line with the June 2011 agreement. The

two countries also could not agree on a proposal tabled by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki to resolve the final status of the Abyei Area by holding a referendum in October 2013.

The way ahead

A key element of the agreements between the two countries has been the establishment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM). As the Secretary-General noted in a report to the Security Council: “The Sudan and South Sudan have made progress towards the implementation of their agreement to establish the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, as provided in the Agreement on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 29 June 2011, the Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission of 30 July 2011 and the Agreement on Security Arrangements of 27 September 2012.” During the year, UNISFA continued preparations for the operationalization of the Mechanism. “The Sudan, South Sudan and UNISFA maintained 32, 30 and 34 monitors,

respectively, at the temporary headquarters of the Mechanism in Assosa, Ethiopia,” noted the Secretary-General’s report.

UNISFA’s mandate, under Chapter VII, includes overseeing the demilitarization of the resource-rich area contested by Sudan and South Sudan and maintaining security.

In the months ahead, UNISFA will be working to deploy the JBVMM all along the border between Sudan and South Sudan with the ultimate goal of achieving a peaceful and lasting solution to the Abyei issue. It will also continue to work closely with the AJOC and maintain advocacy with both the parties to expeditiously set up the Abyei Area Administration institutions, including the executive, legislature and Abyei Police Service. Facilitating humanitarian access and assistance to the people of Abyei will remain a high priority.■

UNMIK

Promoting dialogue and freedom of movement

Over the last year, tensions escalated in northern Kosovo, threatening a renewed stand-off between the Kosovo authorities and the northern Kosovo Serb population. At one stage, road barricades were erected on most major roads in the area, and confrontations came to a head, including most dangerously between Kosovo Serbs and NATO/KFOR (Kosovo Force) forces.

In close coordination with KFOR, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) worked behind the scenes to encourage Pristina and the northern Kosovo Serbs to de-escalate these mounting tensions, among other things by leading a security coordination body in the north, which brought the key

players together in open dialogue. The initiative aimed at ensuring that KFOR and the European Union's Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) would see freedom of movement swiftly restored along with the ability to implement vital mandates in an unimpeded and non-politicised manner.

UNMIK worked behind the scenes to encourage Pristina and the northern Serbs to de-escalate these dangerous tensions.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) engaged directly and through the UNMIK-facilitated coordination meetings with Serb leaders in the north, alongside all stakeholders, stressing the unacceptability of impeding free movement and the importance of addressing their grievances through political processes and dialogue. The SRSG also engaged all stakeholders toward an acceptable and consensual approach to achieving both legitimate and functional representation in the northern Kosovo municipalities. By the end of the year nearly all road blocks had been dismantled, and NATO, EULEX and UNMIK continued working in the north in support of their mandates and of a renewed political process at the highest level among the parties. ■



In an effort to promote multi-ethnic and religious tolerance, during his visit to Kosovo, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, accompanied by his Special Representative Farid Zarif (left), visited several Islamic, Orthodox and Roman Catholic religious sites, including the Sinan Pasha Mosque in Prizren, July 2012. (UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe)



UNMIL

Meeting challenges on the path to lasting peace

In 2012, the people and the Government of Liberia continued to make progress in the country's post-conflict recovery and in consolidating its hard-won peace and stability. In the six years since the country's first post-conflict democratic elections, the national budget has grown considerably, allowing several significant processes and reforms to go forward and enabling the Government to provide some essential services to its citizens.

"Since 2003, Liberia has transformed itself from a failed state to one well along the path to democracy and lasting peace," Karin Landgren, the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General's (SRSG) and Head of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) told the Security Council in September 2012.

In December, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf launched Liberia Vision 2030, a long-term political and economic agenda for the country to realize its economic and social aspirations. Together with the consultations on the National Reconciliation Road Map initiated in October and Liberia's five-year long development plan (Agenda for Transformation), these instruments provide for a viable platform for moving the country towards its political, economic and social goals. Proposed and ongoing reforms include decentralization processes which would help open the door for all Liberians to enjoy equitable access to services and to take part in decisions that affect them.

Constitutional reform process

The constitutional reform process, which is central to national reconciliation and to overcoming many of the structural imbalances and injustices, also gathered momentum. This was due primarily to the establishment in August of the Constitution Review Committee, which has been mandated to guide a nationwide consultative review of the Constitution of Liberia. In a parallel effort, electoral reform efforts advanced as well, with the National Elections Commission beginning informal consultations with the legislature on a draft election law, which is expected, among other reforms, to clarify constitutional referendum procedures.

"Since 2003, Liberia has transformed itself from a failed state to one well along the path to democracy and lasting peace..."

These positive steps were actively supported by UNMIL and the donor community in the country. The mission and other UN officials/entities kept stressing, however, that in order for the reform processes to take root, the Government must ensure that they reflect the will of the people and include their active participation, and that vibrant dialogue at all levels of society should

be established to discuss critical issues facing the nation.

Long-term stability will require that Liberia's security sector is able to stand alone and is trusted by its citizens. It is especially critical following the Security Council's decision in September to initiate downsizing of UNMIL's military strength in three phases between 2012 and 2015, starting with the implementation of the first phase – reduction of 1,900 military personnel – between October 2012 and September 2013. The plan envisages gradual handing over of the security responsibilities of UNMIL to national authorities, which would allow for a phased transition.

Planning for transition

Following the successful joint Government-UNMIL transition workshop in August, the activities of the Government-UNMIL joint transition working group increased in momentum and shifted from planning towards implementation. From October to December, several small facilities were handed over to the Government, as UNMIL military scaled down in more stable areas. During this exercise, however, it became clear that constraints in planning capacity, equipment, financial resources and management, as well as poor infrastructure, particularly roads, pose a major challenge to national security. In the meantime, the UN mission and the Government of Liberia have developed a transition road map, with timelines, outlining all elements related to



UNMIL Special Representative Karin Landgren awards a female Ghanaian peacekeeper during a medal parade in Buchanan, November 2012. (UNMIL/Staton Winter)

the security transition through June 2015, including enhanced Government presence in areas vacated by UNMIL troops.

UNMIL continued to support the Government's efforts to strengthen the National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and other security agencies. A total of 245 recruits graduated from the Liberian police academy in 2012, including 48 women.

Notwithstanding the need for additional police personnel, addressing issues such as the quality of training, professional standards, accountability, public trust and sustainability are central to the ability of the police to perform their duties. With support from UNMIL, the national police made efforts to improve civilian oversight to help professionalize the service and enhance public trust. Only in the last six months of the past year, 13 projects to support the implementation of the national police strategic plan were completed. They focused on improving operational efficiency, investigative and training capacity, and administrative accountability.

Bringing security and justice closer to the population is also crucial. As part of the efforts in that field, the construction of the first pilot justice and security hub in Liberia (Gbarnga, Bong County), with the support of UNMIL and the UN Peacebuilding Fund, is an important step towards improving access to justice for Liberians. The hub is expected to be fully operational in the second quarter of 2013. Meanwhile, discussions are under way concerning the development of the second and third justice and security hubs.

UNMIL-UNOCI cooperation

While the overall security situation in Liberia remained generally stable, instability along the border with Côte d'Ivoire continued to be a major concern. The porous border with Côte d'Ivoire was especially volatile in the first half of 2012. In addition to the killing of seven peacekeepers serving with the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in an attack on 8 June, at least 27 civilians were killed in attacks on Ivorian villages near the Liberian border.

Following this attack, UNMIL police units intensified joint patrols with Liberian security agencies in the border area and around refugee camps, while the UNMIL military component adopted a more robust posture, including by increasing the frequency of air patrols and air-inserted foot patrols. UNMIL and UNOCI also enhanced cooperation between their civilian and military components.

“Reinforcement of the national security sector should go hand in hand with national reconciliation and structural changes...”

In the second part of 2012, the situation along the border of Liberia with Côte d'Ivoire improved, with only one cross-border attack taking place during that period. The cooperation between UNMIL and UNOCI has expanded beyond security tasks and the sharing of resources, with both missions agreeing in September to identify targeted, longer-term initiatives aimed at stabilization, reconciliation and strengthening state authority in border areas.

National reconciliation

Briefing the Security Council in September, SRSG Landgren quoted the UN Secretary-General by saying that “security measures alone will not create lasting stability in Liberia.” She added that “reinforcement of the national security sector should go hand in hand with national reconciliation and structural changes to address the underlying causes of past conflict.” Achieving this, however, “will take both political commitment and financial resources.” The SRSG noted that with Liberia “on the verge of becoming a true success story, the UN mission must walk a delicate balance: applauding successes and pulling back our support, while continuing to accompany Liberia in areas crucial to lasting peace.” ■

UNMISS

Ensuring the security of civilians

UNMISS had a challenging year in 2012 as it helped the world's youngest State exercise its responsibilities to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflict while protecting the civilian population.

The mission's original mandate—spelled out in Security Council resolution 1996—called for, among other tasks, monitoring and investigating threats against the civilian population. The Security Council also mandated UNMISS to deter violence through “proactive deployment and patrols in areas at high risk of conflict, within its capabilities and in its areas of deployment.” When the mission's mandate was extended in 2012, the Security Council underscored once again the responsibility to prioritize protection of civilians.

To deliver on this core function, UNMISS devised and implemented a strategy to

protect civilians under five priority situations: incidents in the border areas affecting civilians; rebel militia activities; inter-communal violence; threats to civilians during security operations, including civilian disarmament; and the activities of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

As part of the implementation of the strategy, UNMISS supported reconciliation initiatives by government and civil society actors at the national, state and local levels. These activities aimed to foster political dialogue with a view to putting an end to recurring cycles of violence.

Engaging the government

In addition, the mission took part in activities to directly protect civilians

through its engagement with the Government on issues of civilian disarmament, including by alerting the armed forces to reports of indiscipline.

The Security Council underscored once again the responsibility to prioritize protection of civilians.

One of the greatest challenges facing the Government of South Sudan and UNMISS as they work to protect civilians is the threat of inter-communal violence, which is frequently linked to cattle raiding. Ethnic Murle and Lou Nuer in the Pibor area of Jonglei State clashed from December 2011 until February 2012.



Signing ceremony of Jonglei State Communities' conference for peace, Bor, May 2012. (UN Photo/Isaac Billy)

According to an UNMISS human rights report, an estimated 6,000-8,000 armed youth, militarily organized and primarily from the Lou Nuer group, mobilized in Jonglei and launched a series of systematic attacks over 12 days in December 2011 on areas inhabited by the Murle group.

In response, from 27 December, smaller groups of armed Murle youth began launching retaliatory attacks on Lou Nuer and Bor Dinka areas until 4 February.

These incidents were the latest in a cycle of retaliatory attacks which had escalated over the course of 2011.

The six weeks of violence led to nearly 900 deaths, incidents of abductions of women and children, the destruction of homes and the displacement of thousands of civilians.

According to the report, “The failure of the Government to protect civilians from violence, investigate incidents and hold perpetrators accountable is believed to have contributed to this cycle of attacks which have resulted in increasing numbers of casualties and been marked by acts of deliberate cruelty.”

The report provided recommendations to avert future major outbreaks of violence, and identified constraints that had prevented UNMISS from more effectively fulfilling its mandate to protect civilians under the imminent threat of physical violence.

“To end the cycle of violence in Jonglei for good, we need to understand what happened and make sure that the perpetrators are held accountable,” the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and head of UNMISS, Hilde F. Johnson, said. “This needs to be part of a comprehensive peace process in the state.”

The defence of Pibor town in the opening days of the new year was the first in a series of significant actions

taken by UNMISS in 2012 to fulfill its responsibility to protect civilians facing imminent violence. On the morning of 2 January 2012, peacekeepers from the Indian Battalion joined the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) in preventing between 150 and 200 armed Lou Nuer youths from crossing the Pibor River in an attempt to attack Pibor town.

UN provides refuge

It is widely believed that the physical presence of the peacekeepers helped save hundreds of civilian lives in the process. Also during the crisis, UNMISS operated 242 helicopter flights, evacuated 180 wounded civilians in need of emergency medical treatment and sheltered up to 3,500 civilians in UNMISS military compounds.

In late October 2012, fighting erupted in the vicinity of Pibor town between SPLA troops and a rebel militia allegedly led by David Yau Yau. Hundreds of civilians from Pibor county took refuge inside the local UNMISS County Support Base over the course of two days until the violence subsided.

It is widely believed that the physical presence of the peacekeepers helped save hundreds of civilian lives in the process.

Similarly, on 19 December, around 5,000 civilians, mostly women, children and the elderly, took refuge inside the UN camp in the town of Wau, the capital of Western Bahr el-Ghazal state, in the northwest of the country. They had escaped violence and protests that began a few days earlier after officials said they would move the seat of local government out of Wau to the nearby town of Baggari.

The mission’s strategy of protection of civilians included an early warning system designed to alert the South Sudanese authorities of an imminent attack against unarmed civilians.

UNMISS staff members played a key role in monitoring a civilian disarmament campaign launched by the South Sudanese government and the SPLA in Jonglei state in March 2012 and documented reports of abuses committed by members of the government’s security forces against local residents.

The mission’s ongoing efforts to increase the protection of civilians in South Sudan have been noted by many citizens of the young nation. “I think the presence of UNMISS is very important,” said Ader Akoy, a 31-year-old government employee in the Jonglei state capital of Bor. “It’s trying to convince people to live peacefully and work for peace and stability with other communities. This is the work and achievement of UNMISS in the state.”

As part of its mandate, UNMISS also helps with police and security sector reform, advising the Government on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, supporting an inclusive constitutional process, and helping the new nation plan for its first elections.

The mission is also supporting efforts to build the country’s human rights capacities and institutions. It also carries out quick impact projects to help with tangible basic service delivery such as providing drinking water systems and repairing schools.

While 2012 was a challenging year for the new nation, peacekeepers contributed to efforts by the Government to protect civilians and to build a more stable future in South Sudan. ■

UNMIT

A story of successful cooperation

The end of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) on 31 December 2012 brought to a close over 13 years of UN peacekeeping and political missions in the country. Established in response to the internal crisis that shook the country and displaced up to 150,000 people in April and May 2006, UNMIT provided interim law enforcement and public security until Timor-Leste's national police could be reconstituted and resume its role.

UNMIT was composed of more than 1,600 police officers from 41 countries, and about 1,900 national and international civilian personnel. Since UNMIT's creation, mission personnel worked with all segments of Timorese society, including the Government, police and armed forces, the National Parliament and political parties, the judiciary, civil society groups and the media to help

Timor-Leste achieve stability, strengthen rule of law and improve the capacities of state institutions.

Achieving benchmarks

This was a banner year for UNMIT and the Timorese people in terms of achieving benchmarks, prior to the mission's departure. The nation's second independent presidential elections were held in two phases on 17 March and 16 April 2012. The election saw an end to Jose Ramos-Horta's five-year term, as Taur Matan Ruak, a former military commander, became the victor in a second round run-off. Parliamentary elections followed in July, with Prime Minister Xana Gusmao's National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction winning over Fretilin, the main contender. However,

falling short of a majority, a coalition government would be formed.

This was a banner year for UNMIT and the Timorese people in terms of achieving benchmarks, prior to the Mission's departure.

With both elections conducted in a largely peaceful manner, the international community and the UN felt confident about UNMIT's impending departure. Furthermore, the full certification of the reconstitution of the National Police on 31 October confirmed its capacity to conduct all police functions, following substantial training programmes by UN Police. Also of significance was the fact



Timor-Leste thanks Portuguese Police for helping secure peace, November 2012. (UN Photo/Sandra Black)

that Timor-Leste had celebrated its 10 years of hard-won independence on 10 May 2012.

“The Timorese people and its leaders have shown courage and unswerving resolve to overcome great challenges. Although there remains much work ahead, this is an historic moment in recognising the progress already made,” the Secretary-General’s Acting Special Representative and Head of UNMIT, Finn Reske-Nielsen, stated in December 2012 just prior to the closing of the Mission.

The results of the strong partnership between Timor-Leste and the UN were evident at every level. National institutions, in their infancy in 2002, are now safeguarding stability and democracy. Successive governments have taken concrete steps to improve the lives of citizens and enhance development. The judiciary has made important progress in upholding the rule of law. With the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) responsible for policing since March 2011, reported crime has remained low. Beyond its borders, the country has assumed a leadership role with the G7+ and is a key contributor to the New Deal on Aid Effectiveness.

Youth and development

Ms. Ameerah Haq, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, who previously served as the head of UNMIT between 2010 and June 2012, said in an interview, “The Timorese leadership has set a course for development. This will be critical in the days and years ahead. The youth of the country need opportunities for education and jobs to be able to make their own contribution to building their nation.”

To that end, UNMIT created the National Staff Capacity Building Programme (NSCBP) meant to provide a comprehensive range of training offerings that would ultimately help the mission’s



Pakistani police officers shortly before boarding a return flight home as they end their service with UNMIT, November 2012. (UN Photo/Bernadino Soares)

Timorese staff to find employment and to continue to help contribute to the nation’s development after the departure of UNMIT.

The results of the strong partnership between Timor-Leste and the UN were evident at every level.

While significant progress has been achieved, challenges lie ahead, including tackling poverty and unemployment, promoting education and improving health services.

One of the key priorities for Timor-Leste is to develop the non-oil economy, especially the private sector, to ensure sustainable and equitable growth, which translates into jobs.

Education, youth employment, and equitable development will require continued close cooperation between Timorese authorities and international partners.

One significant area in which the mission’s work could not be completed by the end of its mandate was the investigations into cases relating to crimes against humanity and other serious crimes committed between 1 January and 25 October 1999. The Serious Crimes Unit, however, had completed 319 of 396 investigations and expected to conclude an additional 16 investigations by end of the year, leaving 61 investigations outstanding.

The UN family will continue to provide support to national institutions in designing and implementing programmes for accelerated development, through the UN agencies, funds and programmes.

As President of Timor-Leste Taur Matan Ruak said at the closing ceremony of UNMIT, “for the past 13 years, Timor-Leste and the United Nations have worked hand in hand to bring peace, stability and development to our country.

“The mission (UNMIT) deserves recognition and should be long remembered as a successful peacekeeping operation. Our partnership with the United Nations family will however continue, as we work towards building a more prosperous nation.” ■

UNOCI

Scaling up protection efforts

The people from Pékan Houebli, a village located near the border between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, 600 km west of the capital Abidjan, are happy that the peace and quiet they once enjoyed is progressively coming back into their community.

In the early hours of 13 August 2012, the population of the village woke up to the sound of gunfire. Unidentified armed individuals attacked the village, forcing its inhabitants to flee. Some of them crossed the border and sought refuge in Liberia. More than 20 homes were burnt to the ground and several people killed during the attack.

Alex Kele, leader of the youth association of Pékan Houebli, says he will never

forget this day. “We were so frightened that we did not know which way to run, but we knew we had to run for our lives. We ran and left everything behind,” he recalls.

“When we talk to the blue helmets, they tell us they are here for us and that makes us feel happy...”

Shortly after the event, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), together with Ivorian security forces, began to conduct regular patrols in the area. By October 2012, the people

of Pékan Houebli heard that the situation had improved in their village and decided to return to their community with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration.

Villagers return home

“We always wanted to return home, but we did not know what was happening in our village. We had nothing to do in Liberia but here we have a lot to do,” explained Kele, who returned to his village along with other villagers in October 2012.



UNOCI peacekeepers carrying out patrols with Ivorian forces in a village, December 2012. (UN Photo/Ky Chung)



UNOCI peacekeepers on foot patrol with Ivorian forces, December 2012. (UN Photo/Ky Chung)

With the support of UNOCI's Moroccan contingent, Ivorian police and *gendarmes* have been conducting joint patrols three times a week. Kele says that these patrols have enabled the return of some 45 families, who are now trying to rebuild their lives. "We feel safe when we see these patrols. When we talk to the blue helmets, they tell us they are here for us and that makes us feel happy," said Kele.

According to the commander of the UN Police in the nearby locality of Toulepleu, Onesphore Hakizimana, whose men take part in the joint patrols, a challenge was to establish trust between the Ivorian security forces and the population.

"Our goal is to make them feel safe enough to go about their daily business without any fear. In order to do this, we have to make sure we all work together and ensure that people trust not only the UN peacekeepers, but also their own security forces. By carrying out joint patrols the population can see that we are

working closely with the national security forces to protect them. Our patrols also act as deterrent to criminals," explained Commander Hakizimana.

Following the violent post-electoral crisis from December 2010 to April 2011, there have been sporadic but deadly attacks against Ivorian security forces and UNOCI peacekeepers. To further enhance security, UNOCI periodically redeployed its troops in different areas near Côte d'Ivoire's border between Liberia and Ghana.

Crossborder threats

On 8 June 2012, seven peacekeepers from Niger were killed when they came under attack from an armed group while on patrol in the west along the border with Liberia. They had been deployed in response to reports of an attack on civilians in the village of Sao the night of 7 June. Insecurity in the West, in

particular cross-border movements of armed groups and weapons, continue to pose a significant threat to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and the sub-region. UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have enhanced their intermission cooperation and related activities in the border area, in support of the authorities on both sides of the border.

At the end of 2012, the Secretary-General's Special Representative and head of UNOCI, Bert Koenders, said that the country's economy was recovering, it was progressively reintegrating into the West African region and the overall security situation had improved since the end of the post-electoral crisis.

"Yet, this positive picture should not obscure the fact that the country continues to face important challenges and significant threats as it transitions to a peacebuilding phase," he stated. ■

UNSMIS

Military solution not possible

Syria began the year in conflict, and ended the year in war.

As the year began amid increased violence, the Secretary-General engaged in intensive diplomatic efforts to end the military confrontation and move towards a political settlement.

In March 2012, the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Kofi Annan, put forward a six-point proposal that was endorsed by the Security Council, and accepted by the Syrian authorities and the opposition. The six-point plan was designed to de-escalate the conflict through a series of steps and create space for talks between the parties. The plan also included the

establishment of a ceasefire monitoring mechanism.

In April, UNSMIS was set up to monitor and supervise a cessation of violence. Initially set up for a 90-day period, the mission deployed 300 unarmed military observers from 47 countries in record time. By the end of May 2012, UNSMIS, under the leadership of Major-General Robert Mood, was fully operational with a presence in Damascus and in eight sites across the country.

“Our mission is to build bridges, creating confidence and trust. A key challenge is to stop the violence,” Major General Mood told reporters shortly after taking up his functions. The unarmed observers, later joined by civilian staff, worked actively

in support of all aspects of the six-point plan including engaging with the Syrian population in Government and opposition-held areas.

Despite a brief initial reduction of violence, by mid-June it was clear that the ceasefire was not being respected. As clashes intensified between the Syrian army and opposition fighters, UN convoys and personnel came increasingly under direct and indirect fire.

While the situation was being reviewed daily, the presence of military observers was consolidated in four team sites, including Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Rif Damascus. The mission reoriented its efforts with a focus on visiting schools and medical facilities to assess the impact



United Nations observers inspecting a residential area with Free Syrian Army gunmen at Talbisah in Homs city, June 2012. (UN Photo/David Manyua)



Ahmed Himniche (centre), UN Military Observer dispatched to Syria, is approached by citizens of Homs as he and his team patrol the city, April 2012. (UN Photo/Neeraj Singh)

of the conflict on the civilian population and enable humanitarian assistance to be delivered.

Accessing options

Reporting to the Security Council in early July, the Secretary-General outlined a set of options for a future reorientation of UNSMIS, notably a withdrawal, an increase in the number of observers accompanied by armed force protection, and the maintenance of UNSMIS in the same configuration under a renewed mandate with emphasis on civilian activities.

“Whatever decision the Security Council makes, the international community’s continued responsibility to the Syrian people is moral as well as political,” Major-General Mood said. “We cannot and will not turn our eyes and ears away from your plight and will continue our work to find new paths to political dialogue and peaceful resolution to the crisis.”

On 20 July 2012, the Security Council extended the mission for 30 days stating that any further extension could be possible only “in the event that the Secretary-General reports and the Security Council confirms the cessation of the use of heavy weapons and a reduction in the level of violence sufficient by all sides” to allow the UNSMIS monitors to implement their mandate. As those conditions were not met, the Council brought UNSMIS to an end on 19 August 2012.

Major-General Mood’s assignment in Syria concluded in July and he was replaced shortly after by General Babacar Gaye.

Despite the violence and the challenges, the 300 unarmed military observers conducted their duties and demonstrated the United Nations’ commitment to Syria and the region.

By year’s end, over 40,000 Syrians had lost their lives, hundreds of thousands were displaced. Lakhdar Brahimi, who had been appointed Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and

Arab League in August 2012, focused his efforts to help move the parties to a cessation of violence and a political path, and on addressing the humanitarian crisis that was getting dramatically worse by the week.

“We can only succeed if all sides take the necessary steps...”

“A military solution will not bring an end to violence in Syria. It will plunge Syria into a destructive process from which it will be very hard and take very long to recover, with dangerous consequences for the entire region,” the Secretary-General told the General Assembly late in 2012. “We can only succeed if all sides take the necessary steps, and if there are converging actions by the international community, in particular the Security Council,” he added.

“If we genuinely unite behind Brahimi and behind one process, it is still possible to avert the worst and enable a Syria in peace to emerge from this crisis.” ■

UNTSO

Nimbleness as a guiding concept

The year 2012 was one of proactive adaptation and nimbleness, undertaken in difficult security conditions, for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which works in five countries in a region in flux.

As one of the longest-serving peacekeeping missions, UNTSO's mandate has remained the same since 1949—to monitor ceasefires and agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbours and prevent isolated incidents from escalating. The ways of implementing the mandate, however, must continuously and concretely adapt to changing circumstances. And changing circumstances were the hallmark of 2012 in the region, deeply affecting some of the host countries, which include Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Under the direction of Major-General Juha Kilpia of Finland, UNTSO's Head of

Mission and Chief of Staff, “nimbleness” became the guiding principle for carrying out its tasks.

Syrian conflict spreads

The conflict in Syria and its expansion to the Golan in 2012, changed the environment in which the UNTSO military observers conduct their tasks.

Entrusted with a mandate which calls for “observation” and “assistance”, the mission combined military expertise with broad political access, not limited by its mandate to a single country. Thus UNTSO, with its more than 50 military observers, some 90 international civilian personnel and more than 130 local civilian staff, was able to work on a regional basis during the continuing conflict.

The military observers carried out their activities under difficult security conditions and encountered safety and security risks. In addition, the mission leveraged its long experience in unarmed military observation to become the first field operation to redeploy observers during the start-up phase of the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS).

The ways of implementing the mandate must continuously and concretely adapt to changing circumstances.

The mission's presence in the five countries enabled it to provide the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) with reporting on the military, political and security developments in the region, helping to defuse incidents on the ground and informing the decision-making process at UN Headquarters during an eventful year in the area. Helping to facilitate this mission was the presence on the ground of specialists in UNTSO's headquarters in Jerusalem and in liaison offices in Beirut, Ismailia and Damascus.

The Head of Mission, with access to numerous military and political actors in multiple nations, made the mission an important mechanism for identifying and analyzing regional trends based on regional political-military dialogue and direct observation in the field. ■



Major-General Juha Kilpia of Finland, UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff (seated, second from the right) with Observer Group Golan, December 2012. (UNDOF photo)



Corporal Natascha Vestermayer
Firefighter - Austria



Corporal Mariam Kakwira
Military Police - Tanzania



Sergeant Ji-Young Lee
EOD Unit - Republic of Korea

WOMEN in Peacekeeping

Recognising the critical role that women play in peacekeeping, the United Nations continues to work towards empowering women, increasing their numbers in senior management positions and advocating for women's rights and gender equality, with a focus on ending violence against women.

On these pages, some of the female peacekeepers who have served in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) provide a small window into what the UN continues to aspire to—more women in peacekeeping; more women in leadership roles.



Captain Dr. Barsha Bajracharya
Medical Doctor - Nepal



Lieutenant Emma Stanley
Signals Officer - Ireland



Dr. Zahra Shaitly
Pharmacist - Lebanon



Captain Eun-Bi Jeong
Nurse Officer - Republic of Korea



Sergeant Mercedes Sanina
Military Police Officer - Spain



POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING MISSIONS



Girls wave and flash victory signs at a passing helicopter during a military parade on the anniversary of the revolution in the western city of Zawiyah, Libya, June 2012. (UNSMIL/Iason Athanasiadis)



BNUB

Consolidating peace through political dialogue

At the end of October 2012, the Government of Burundi (with support from the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union, and bilateral partners) organized a major conference in Geneva, bringing together all of Burundi's development partners, to mobilize support for the implementation of its poverty reduction strategy. Though final figures are still to be confirmed, donors pledged more than \$2.6 billion. In doing so, they commended the Government, and the people of Burundi, for their commitment to promoting good governance and strengthening the fight against poverty. This was the second year of impressive advances for Burundi in the World Bank's "Doing Business" indicators, making Burundi Africa's "Most Improved" for 2012, and, among the 10 countries globally deemed to have most improved in the same year—the only low-income country among the 10. Thanks to the efforts of the Office Burundais des Recettes, state revenues continued to increase dramatically from what was a very low base.

The United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) strongly supported and welcomed this engagement from both national stakeholders and international partners. "Recent history from around the globe points to a clear lesson; the final stage of peace consolidation is especially critical in a country's post-conflict recovery process. And this is the crossroads at which Burundi now finds itself," Special Representative of the Secretary-General for BNUB Onanga-Anyanga stated at the Geneva Conference. "This is why strong support from internal and international partners is needed now more than ever," he added.

Burundi witnessed other positive developments during 2012. BNUB continued to support efforts to strengthen political dialogue. Two formal meetings have taken place between the Government and the opposition parties, and one member of the extra-parliamentary opposition returned from exile, in time for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of independence. At the same time, the number of extra-judicial executions and other human rights

violations documented by the United Nations decreased in 2012, compared to the previous year. The Independent National Human Rights Commission, which was established in 2012 with UN support and continued to benefit from capacity-building support, extended its operations to the regions.

Following the Arusha Accords

However, the path ahead is not without challenges. The United Nations will therefore continue supporting Burundi in achieving the objectives set out in the Arusha Accords over 10 years ago: consolidating a vibrant democracy where all citizens can live in peace, building a society that respects diversity and human rights, promotes reconciliation, and putting in place institutions that strive for good governance and equitable growth. The UN will continue to support efforts to promote broad-based political dialogue to pave the way for peaceful and inclusive elections due to be held in 2015.

In collaboration with its partners in Burundi, the UN will also focus its efforts on strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the judicial follow-up to human rights violations and other crimes so as to tackle the persistent issue of impunity.

Ahead of the 2015 elections, a major challenge in Burundi will be to ensure that the gains made so far become sustainable, that peace becomes firmly entrenched in Burundian society, and that all citizens can freely engage and participate in the democratic process. ■



SRSG Onanga-Anyanga during the Conference for Burundi's Development Partners, Geneva, October 2012. (UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré)

BINUCA

Back from the brink, but still fragile

Faced with chronic political instability, including a succession of coups over the past decades, the conflict in Central African Republic (CAR) remained one of the most overlooked crises in the world. Tensions between politico-military groups and the Government culminated in renewed unrest at the end of 2012.

In December 2012, a coalition of armed groups called “Séléka” claiming that President François Bozizé failed to honour the terms of a 2008 peace deal, took up arms against the Government and swiftly gained control of nearly half the country.

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) has been engaged in the country with a mandate to consolidate peace, support national reconciliation and mobilize international support for socio-economic recovery. The mission has also been working closely with the government and international partners in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants as well as in countering the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), whose increased presence in the southeast has caused the displacement of more than 20,000 civilians.

Following the renewed eruption of violence at the end of 2012, BINUCA provided technical support and political advice to regional efforts aimed at facilitating peace talks under the aegis of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

Briefing the Security Council in January 2013, BINUCA Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Margaret Vogt said that she had embarked on intensive diplomatic consultations to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the crisis. Complementing SRSG Vogt’s efforts was a team of experts dispatched from the Department of Political Affairs’ Standby Team of Mediation Experts, who assisted in the drafting of a declaration of principles and a ceasefire agreement. SRSG Vogt also told the Council that three days of talks held in Libreville, Gabon, were concluded by a new peace deal between the Government and the rebellion on 11 January 2013, paving the way for power-sharing and a political transition in the Central African Republic.

Urging effective governance

While these accords would contain the immediate flare-up, SRSG Vogt told the Council that another meltdown down the line is quite possible if, like previous

deals, they are not implemented. “The opportunity must be seized to put in place an effective Government capable of addressing the country’s myriad challenges.”

BINUCA will be involved in the follow-up mechanism on the implementation of the 11 January peace agreement. Through its resolution 2088 (2013), the Security Council extended the peacebuilding office’s mandate for a year, tasking it to work with all parties to facilitate the full implementation of the agreement.

Urging the international community to “engage more forcefully both diplomatically and financially to pull the CAR from the brink,” SRSG Vogt added in a press conference via video link from Bangui that “it was now critical to educate cadres throughout the Central African Republic on the provisions of the agreement and to start disarmament and re-integration programmes in earnest, by overcoming obstacles that stalled them in the past year, as well as making progress in political and security sector reform.” ■



SRSG Vogt at a conference, October 2012. (UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré)

UNAMA

Positioning itself for post 2014

A challenging year ended in Afghanistan with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) reiterating its commitment to remain in the country post-2014, when most international military forces will have departed. The mission has repositioned itself to better support the Afghan government's vision of Afghan leadership and economic self-reliance during the country's "Transformation Decade" (2015-2024).

This stance is in line with the current UNAMA mandate which defines the UN as an active partner of the Afghan government, leading and coordinating international civilian efforts to support and to strengthen the Government and its institutions to deliver on their responsibilities. UNAMA's involvement in supporting the government and civil society is far-reaching, ranging from initiatives like providing forums for Afghan leaders, to promoting human

rights, to reinforcing the work of groups that advocate for gender equality to ensuring that upcoming elections are transparent and inclusive. By promoting the inclusion of non-mainstream voices such as civil society and the loyal opposition, the Mission plays a vital political outreach function.

"We will, as the United Nations and definitely as the international community, be here with you also for the post-2014 period," Ján Kubiš, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) told a group of Afghan civil society leaders.

The transition of security responsibility to Afghan forces and the drawdown of the international military presence set to be completed by the end of 2014 has created a sense of uncertainty and anxiety about the future amongst Afghans and internationals alike. Many are concerned that the social, economic

and security gains of the past decade may be in jeopardy, if the attention of the international community wanes. At two important international fora in 2012, the Chicago NATO Summit and the Tokyo Conference, international partners committed to continuing to provide security and socio-economic support after 2014, giving a degree of predictability to assuage Afghan fears of abandonment.

Looking at long-term support

In a speech to the Chicago Summit, SRSG Kubiš called on the international community to commit to solid and meaningful long-term support for Afghanistan. The result of that conference was a commitment to provide security forces with \$4.1 billion in annual support.



SRSG Kubiš (left) briefs the media in Kabul after returning from a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit held in the US city of Chicago, May 2012. (UNAMA/Fardin Waezi)



An Afghan health worker (left) administers polio drops to a child. A large-scale, UN-backed vaccination campaign was completed in Afghanistan in 2012, preventing up to 40,000 cases of measles and averting some 2,000 deaths. (UNAMA/Fardin Waezi)

Two months later in Tokyo, UNAMA played a vital role in supporting the Government to marshal international donors to pledge \$16 billion for Afghanistan's economic and development needs post-2014. That pledge was conditioned on the realization of previous commitments made by the Afghan Government on governance, political and human rights issues and by the international community on meeting aid effectiveness targets. A key conference outcome, the "Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework", endorsed by Afghanistan and the international community, provides a roadmap for future engagement between the international community and Afghanistan in terms of development support. In the words of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Framework should give confidence to Afghans and donors that the commitments that they have made to each other will be honored.

"The recent series of successful high-level meetings has redefined and reinvigorated long-term partnership between

Afghanistan and the international community," said Mr. Kubiš.

In addition to helping to lay the groundwork for a successful transition, addressing Afghanistan's humanitarian challenges remains a major concern of the UN in Afghanistan. Large parts of the country are hard to reach and are prone to droughts, flooding and local-level conflicts. In such an environment, providing emergency support remains a key challenge and UNAMA continues to work closely with and supports the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs as it coordinates the humanitarian response.

Monitoring human rights

UNAMA also continues to play a pivotal role through monitoring and reporting of abuses of international humanitarian and human rights. UNAMA's human rights unit produces targeted, fact-based assessments on the human rights issues that impact the Afghan people

the most. This year's Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, produced by the mission's human rights unit, reported that the number of Afghan civilians killed or injured in 2012 decreased (by 12 per cent) for the first time since the United Nations began keeping track of such figures. Attacks on women and children, however, were found to be on the rise. Particularly disturbing were targeted killings of women by anti-Government elements, as demonstrated by the killings of the head and deputy head of the Laghman Department of Women's Affairs in July and December 2012, respectively.

The number of Afghan civilians killed or injured in 2012 decreased (by 12 per cent) for the first time since the United Nations began keeping track of such figures.

Monitoring and reporting on these incidents helps to focus attention on the urgency of these issues, and assists UNAMA in coordinating efforts to ensure the protection of civilians and promoting accountability.

Addressing journalists in Kabul, SRSG Kubiš said, "There is a 700 per cent increase, 700 per cent, in the killing and harming of civilians, and I'm stressing civilians who are perceived to be working in favour of the Government – different officials, tribal leaders, religious leaders, those that are speaking in favour of peace."

UNAMA continues to advocate for civilian protection, elimination of violence against women, humane treatment in detention, and accountability and inclusivity in peace and reconciliation processes and to make recommendations which have resulted in the mission being able to shape debate and policy. ■

UNAMI

Paving the way for elections

In October 2012, Iraq announced that Governorate Council elections will take place on 20 April 2013. This will be the eighth major electoral event since 2005. From that year, millions of Iraqi men and women have made their way home from polling booths across the country, proudly holding up their fingers dyed bright purple by the ink that symbolizes their contribution to the political process. The UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT), led by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) working together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), has supported the Iraqi electoral commission

in its efforts to build a professional and sustainable electoral administration in Iraq throughout all these events.

An Independent Electoral Commission

The focus of the UN IEAT's capacity building efforts is the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), an institution which is critical for the democratic process. According to Iraq's 2005 Constitution, the IHEC is responsible for planning elections that ensure a credible and legitimate electoral outcome.

In April 2012, the mandate of the existing IHEC Board of Commissioners was due to expire. With major elections on the horizon, it was vital that a new board be appointed on time.

The UN IEAT continued to stress the importance of merit-based selection and inclusion of minorities and women.



SRSK Kobler meets with the new IHEC Board of Commissioners, October 2012. (UNAMI)



UN electoral staff with their IHEC colleagues, Baghdad, November 2012. (UNAMI)

With its history of conflict and instability, Iraq is not always an easy place to build consensus among the multiple political actors. Debate can be intense and protracted. Ensuring an Iraqi-led, open, inclusive and transparent selection process for the members of a new board was therefore essential. With the support of the UN IEAT, the Council of Representatives formed a Committee of Experts that published the selection criteria and opened the process to NGO observation.

In early 2012, the Committee began reviewing over 7,200 applications. More than 4,400 of the applicants were deemed to have met the criteria stipulated in the electoral law. Interviews and a scoring system helped to constitute a short-list of candidates.

By April 2012, the process was nearing completion. Strong voices came from all sides as debate intensified over the final selection. With many qualified candidates

vying for the nine positions, the UN IEAT continued to stress the importance of merit-based selection and inclusion of minorities and women.

At the end of September, the new board was appointed. This lengthy yet successful process represented a major achievement. “This appointment now paves the way for the conduct of Governorate Council elections in 2013,” Martin Kobler, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, said at the time. “The UN remains committed to supporting IHEC and its new Board of Commissioners in the preparations and conduct of elections.”

Iraqi expertise

The eight men and one woman of the new board bring valuable qualifications and expertise, seven of them having served in the previous electoral commission. The new IHEC will be supported by a strong

electoral administration which received training from the UN IEAT in various areas, including operations, data centre management and public outreach.

The UN IEAT is the only UN team that works alongside Iraqi counterparts inside an Iraqi institution on a daily basis. It has done so continuously since 2004.

As Iraq’s IHEC has become increasingly experienced, it has started providing support and sharing expertise with other electoral processes in the region.

Looking ahead

An experienced IHEC is now steering Iraq steadily towards the April 2013 Governorate Council Elections and onwards to the parliamentary election in 2014. The UN IEAT will continue to be at its side when needed. ■

UNIOGBIS

Advancing Security Sector Reform

Guinea-Bissau faced tremendous challenges in 2012, a year marked by instability, at the political, security and social levels, compounded by a worsening economic situation as a result of military intervention in political and judicial life, amid reports of increased drug trafficking. When a section of the military staged a coup d'état on 12 April 2012, deposing the country's civilian rulers during elections, international donors curtailed their assistance to Guinea-Bissau, including in the area of Security Sector Reform (SSR).

Since its establishment by UN Security Council resolution 1876 (2009), the UN Integrated Peace-building Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), which was preceded by a political mission created in 1999, received an enhanced mandate, especially in the area of Security Sector Reform/Rule of Law (SSR/RoL).

Some of the most tangible contributions of the United Nations to enhanced civilian and military cooperation in Guinea-Bissau include an innovative system of community policing with a model police station, the establishment of a vetting and certification system of defense and security institutions and a rehabilitated National Defence Institute. The mission also provided training and mentoring with a view to helping the country to build capacity in the areas of Security Sector Reform and Rule of Law, which are at the core of the peace-building effort.

In SSR/RoL, UNIOGBIS follows an inclusive approach aimed at addressing human security needs in an integrated

and coordinated fashion, synchronizing its efforts—based on identified needs—with national political processes and incorporating gender and human rights standards. This fosters the essential link between security, sustainable peace and development.

Building national capacity

Despite the setback of the coup d'état, UNIOGBIS has continued to deliver on its commitment to building national capacity in order to enhance good governance, constitutional order and public security, to encourage full respect for the rule of law and to promote and respect human rights.

UNIOGBIS has continued to deliver on its commitment to building national capacity.

Within this framework, the mission refurbished the National Defence Institute, towards providing an enabling environment for civilian oversight of defense and security institutions, and to create a space for new channels of dialogue and cooperation between the country's military and the political leadership as well as civil society and international partners. This initiative is complemented by UNIOGBIS' ongoing engagement with national partners within the framework of the National Criminal Justice Forum. This body brings together representatives of all institutions

of the civilian criminal and military justice systems to discuss and gradually harmonize their respective jurisdictions with regard to due process, notably on investigations and prosecutions, and to advise on legal review proposals.

To facilitate access to legislation for legal practitioners, other professionals, government officials and civil society, UNIOGBIS has produced a 550-page compendium of all criminal laws and related legislation of the country. Launched by the mission, in collaboration with Guinea-Bissau's Supreme Court in mid-November, the publication was hailed as a means of facilitating the functioning of the judiciary and enhancing the various actors' familiarity with the national system of criminal justice and its norms.

A mechanism at the core of UNIOGBIS' SSR activities is the vetting and certification process, a form of "internal audit" of the personnel of defence, policing and internal security institutions. Its aim is to update an existing census, establish demobilization lists, design training plans and, finally, award certification based on integrity and skills. UNIOGBIS has been supporting this Government-led process, in which more than 4,000 police and internal security personnel have already registered. The process is being extended to the armed forces and, possibly, public administration as a whole.

At the same time, the mission has carried out a mentoring programme under which SSR experts, including members of the UN police, are co-located with local military, judicial and law enforcement

officers. Similar mentoring programmes have been conducted by UNIOGBIS regional offices, including in the towns of Bafata and Mansoa.

Transforming a “no-go” zone

A concrete example of cooperation between UNIOGBIS and its partners in Guinea-Bissau is the country’s first model police station. It was inaugurated on 12 September 2011, anniversary of the birth of late national hero Amilcar Cabral, in Bairro Militar, a Bissau neighbourhood of some 180,000 residents. For years, Bairro Militar had been notorious for the tension between Government authorities and residents, which sometimes led to clashes, forcing the former to abandon the neighbourhood.

In 2012, UNIOGBIS introduced the concept of community policing in Bairro Militar, a first in the country. The new philosophy focuses on “service” as opposed to “force,” transforming the police into social actors, with an emphasis on preventive and proactive action, rather than repression. The objective

was to forge a collaborative partnership between the police and the community, while paying particular attention to the protection of women, youth and the elderly.

In less than a year, the community policing initiative of Bairro Militar has had a positive impact on the life of its residents. The model police station was chosen by the community to jointly organize with UNIOGBIS an open day event to celebrate UN Day on 24 October 2012. This event would have been unimaginable years ago, when the area was considered a “no-go” zone and was the scene of a high level of violence.

Regular discussion sessions between representatives of the police and area residents, including women’s organisations and youth groups, reflect the new interaction between community and police. Crime statistics are declining. Civil society organizations are engaged in several security, justice and social development projects. Drawing on the success of Bairro Militar, the Government is planning to launch similar community

policing programmes in other parts of the country.

Support by the Peacebuilding Fund

The consolidation of peace, democratic governance and long-term sustainable development requires sustained investment. Through the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) two projects were launched to enhance security and access to justice by supporting and professionalizing police institutions, building model police stations in all regions, and decentralizing judicial and legal services.

The projects also seek to boost reform of the defence institutions by rejuvenating the armed forces through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into society of former combatants, including the establishment of a special pension fund. However, following the freezing of the PBF funds in the wake of the 12 April coup d’état a number of activities had to be suspended. ■



Police training at Bairro Militar Police station, July 2012. (UNIOGBIS)

UNIPSIL

Peacebuilding efforts play a role in peaceful elections

For both United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) staff and the people of Sierra Leone, the highlight of the last year were undoubtedly the elections on 17 November, the third since the end of the civil war in 2002 and a crucial test of the peacebuilding process.

The UN played an important role leading up to the elections. Technical and financial assistance was provided to Sierra Leone's electoral management bodies through the UNDP-managed Electoral Basket Fund with contributions from international partners. Before, during and after the elections, UNIPSIL maintained close contact with the political parties and

urged them to abide by the 18 May 2012 Declaration. This Declaration laid the ground rules and responsibilities for a wide range of actors including politicians. The mission worked with the Political Parties' Registration Commission (PPRC) to promote dialogue and ensure compliance with an agreed Code of Conduct for Political Parties. Equally important to peacebuilding efforts was UNIPSIL's work with cross-party women's and youth groups. These platforms promoted national cohesion and proved valuable as a mechanism for conflict resolution.

This was the first election since 2002 in which Sierra Leone's own institutions —the National Electoral Commission

(NEC), the police and security sector agencies and the PPRC —played a major role in arranging elections themselves. This was no mean feat. In an election marked by “firsts,” four polls took place on the same day. Voters were asked to choose not only the president and members of parliament, but also local and district councillors.

In an election marked by “firsts,” four polls took place on the same day.



Sierra Leoneans take to the polls in Freetown, the capital of the West African nation, to vote in the third presidential and parliamentary elections since the end of civil war in 2002, November 2012.(UNIPSIL)



Voters display their new voter registration cards, November 2012. (UNIPSIL)

Simplifying the process

In a society struggling with high levels of illiteracy, there was clearly a need to simplify such a complex process. It was also important to clarify the powers of the NEC to nullify results should problems arise with issues such as over-voting. Hence, a comprehensive legal reform programme was carried out months before the election campaign period started.

With technical assistance from UNDP, the NEC opted to introduce for the first time in the country's history a biometric system of registering voters. The process was rolled out nationwide starting in January 2012 and by July a total of 2,692,635 citizens had been registered to vote. In another first, regional tallying centres were established in the provincial headquarter towns of Bo, Kenema and Makeni alongside the main centre in the capital, Freetown. With help from UNDP, these centres were equipped with large data-processing facilities to enable prompt and accurate processing of results.

Although Sierra Leone covers an area of just over 71,000 square kilometres, there were major logistical challenges in distributing electoral material to some parts of the country. Forty-three trucks were borrowed from the police and armed forces while the NEC rented an additional 400 vehicles.

The UN played an important role leading up to the elections.

On 23 November, the NEC declared that incumbent President Ernest Bai Koroma of the All People's Congress (APC) had been re-elected with 58.75 percent of the total registered voters. His main rival, Brigadier General (Rtd) Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) received 37.4 percent. According to the 1991 Constitution, there was no need for a run-off since one candidate had secured more than 55 percent of the votes cast. In parliament, the ruling APC increased

its share of seats from 59 to 67 while the SLPP's share dropped from 44 to 42.

Long before the polls, UNIPSIL had set up an initiative supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund in which different groups, such as paramount chiefs, musicians, women's and youth groups, were called upon to help promote peaceful elections. This "Non-State Actors Project" as it is known, engaged academia and the media with a view to mitigating political and ethnic tensions.

Overall, the elections were considered credible and fair. Organizations such as the National Election Watch, a coalition of civil society groups, the European Union, the African Union, the Commonwealth and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) fielded observer missions, later reporting their satisfaction with the outcome.

As UNIPSIL considered its next steps, a popular slogan from one civil society group resounds: "Peace is in our hands." ■

UNOAU

Supporting the African Union's first Formed Police Unit

The first-ever Formed Police Unit (FPU) in an African Union (AU)-led peace support operation was deployed to Somalia in August 2012 to serve under the police component of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). This milestone was a culmination of a two-year long process involving the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU). With the view to bolstering law and order in Mogadishu and assisting the Somali police in consolidating peace and security, a contingent of 140 FPU police officers from Uganda, including seven women, was deployed in August 2012. This was followed, in September 2012, by another contingent of 140 officers from Nigeria, including 25 women.

The deployment of the FPUs increased the total AU police presence in AMISOM to 364, including 78 individual police officers from various African police-contributing countries including Burundi, Kenya, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe who have been playing a critical role in strengthening the capacity of the Somali police. Building on the progress made in Somalia towards the end of the political transition, UNOAU will continue to provide technical and expert advice to the AU with the view to expand the presence of the AU police in other liberated areas and further support the Somali Police Force.

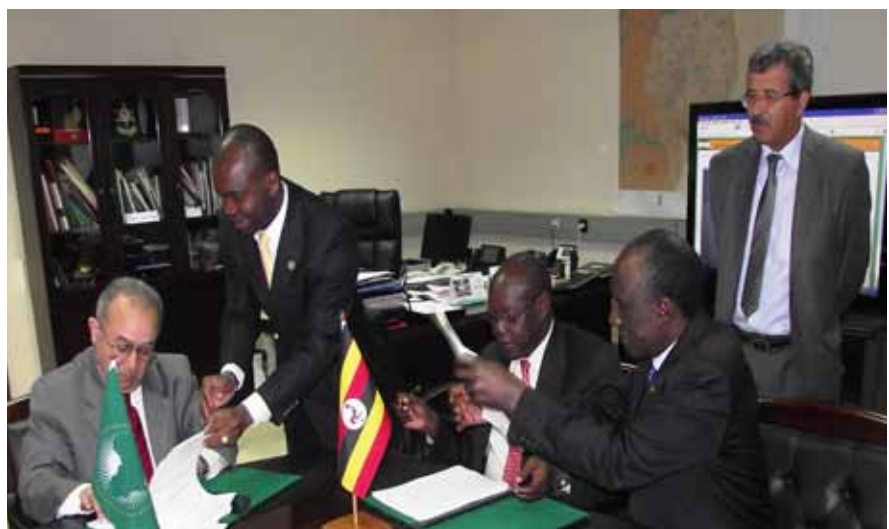
Providing strategic advice

UNOAU is mandated to provide police expertise and advice to the AU and its

sub-regions for ongoing operations such as AMISOM and the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiatives against the Lord's Resistance Army as well as future operations, including the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA). In addition, UNOAU delivers strategic advice towards the operationalization of the African Standby Force. In this regard, UNOAU recently supported the AU in planning and conducting the Police and Civilian Focused Exercise "NJIWA" launched on 31 October 2012 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The exercise, which drew the training audience from AU sub-regions and Member States, aimed at enhancing the police and civilian capacities of the African Standby Force in planning and conducting AU-mandated peace support operations, as well as to enhance its multi-dimensional

character, as part of the efforts to attain full operational capability of the Force by 2015.

In delivering its mandate, UNOAU also coordinates with AU partner groups in order to mainstream technical support and ensure coherence and compliance with international policing guidelines as well as the AU Strategy for the Development of Police Capacity. In particular, UNOAU shares UN lessons learnt and best practices with AU and its sub-regions that are relevant to the development and operationalization of the African Standby Force police component. As such, the AU and its sub-region police planning elements are ultimately acquiring the requisite capacity to plan, deploy and manage peace support operations. ■



Signing of a memorandum of understanding between the AU and the Government of Uganda regarding the FPU insertion in AMISOM, Addis Ababa, June 2012. (UNOAU/ Benjamin Namanya)

UNOCA

Partnering with regional organizations

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Regional office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Mr. Abou Moussa, and the President of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Mr. Issa Hayatou, signed on 10 November 2012 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, a framework of partnership. The partnership highlighted the importance the two organizations place in the power of football as a tool for preventive diplomacy through the implementation of a set of measures to resolve disagreements before they degenerate into conflict.

The sporting spirit

The CAF will organize sporting events and, in cooperation with UNOCA, will stage these activities for the enjoyment of the local communities with the underlying aim of establishing camaraderie and

forming alliances that will aid in preventing conflicts. “The match for peace and security in Central Africa,” which took place on 7 December 2012 in Brazzaville between “Diables noirs” of Congo and “Tout puissant Mazembé” of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), was the first experience of this important cooperation. The match was organized on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), to which UNOCA has provided secretariat functions since May 2011.

In the same way, the Head of UNOCA and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Mr. Alphonse Daniel Ntumba Luaba Lumu, had initialed, on 6 August 2012 in Kampala, a document outlining the cooperation of their offices in the fields of peace, security, prevention

and resolution of conflicts. “The cooperation with the ICGLR takes into account the determination of the United Nations to support sub-regional and regional organizations in their efforts to contribute to the search for solutions to the challenges that threaten international peace,” said SRSG Moussa. That same spirit was behind the formalization of the partnership with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on 3 May 2012 in Libreville, Gabon. As in other cases, an action plan was set up to facilitate this collaboration which deals with issues such as political governance, economic integration, communication, training, electoral processes, humanitarian operations, peace support and security governance.

The partnership highlighted the importance the two organizations place in the power of football as a tool for preventive diplomacy.



The match for peace and security in Central Africa, Brazzaville, December 2012. (UNOCA/Norbert N. Ouendji)

In that regard, 10 staff members of ECCAS took part in a training workshop on mediation from 12 to 14 November at the UNOCA headquarters in Libreville. The training was aimed at reinforcing their professional and operational capacities with regard to the facilitation of dialogue processes and deepening their understanding of the challenges related to negotiating peace agreements. “ECCAS will count on UNOCA to help organize similar training for Member States in order to enable them to improve their capacity for the prevention and

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management of conflicts”, said Mr. Solomon Abba Nyerambaye, Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General of ECCAS, who participated in the training organized with the assistance of the Policy and Mediation Division of the Department of Political Affairs.

“We will not spare any effort to continue to accompany ECCAS in its efforts on conflict prevention and peace consolidation.”

“We will not spare any effort to continue to accompany ECCAS in its efforts on conflict prevention and peace consolidation. Sustainable development and the successful integration of Central Africa depend on it,” Mr. Moussa said. He was pleased with the good working relationship between ECCAS and UNOCA. The two institutions also cooperated on several other fronts. For example, they carried out joint activities with other sub-regional entities including the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as part of efforts to organize a regional Heads of State summit on maritime piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. In resolution 2039 of 29 February 2012, the United Nations Security Council requested the Secretary-General, through the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and UNOCA, to support the organization of the summit, in cooperation with the African Union.

The purpose of the summit is to reflect on the ways and means of addressing maritime insecurity, which threatens international navigation, security, safety and the economic development of the countries concerned. The summit will be preceded by a preparatory meeting at the ministerial level in Benin, one of the countries most affected by the scourge of piracy.■

SRSg Abou Moussa: “Together we can win the war against the LRA”

Efforts to address the impact of the activities of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) were a major priority for UNOCA in 2012. The SRSg for Central Africa, Abou Moussa, and Special Envoy of the African Union (AU) for the LRA, Francisco Madeira, carried out several joint missions in the countries affected by this armed group. In Uganda, Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, authorities renewed their commitment to the fight against the LRA, whose conflict has hampered development and destabilized people of those countries. SRSg Moussa and Mr. Madeira saw first-hand the plight of those affected by the conflict during a visit in April 2012 to a camp of displaced people in Dungu (north-eastern DRC) and of refugees in Obo (south-eastern CAR) where people live in precarious conditions. “If nothing is done, it is likely going to become a serious crisis,” warned SRSg Moussa, impatient to see all those families return to their homes.

The LRA strategy, coordinated by UNOCA and endorsed by the Security Council on 29 June 2012, highlighted this important humanitarian aspect. The implementation of this strategy constituted one of the current main concerns of the office. UNOCA worked in support of the efforts of the AU, in particular by helping to mobilize resources for the AU Regional Task Force (RTF) established to track Joseph Kony (leader of the LRA) and his lieutenants. On 18 September 2012 in Yambio (South Sudan), SRSg Moussa took part in the official joining ceremony of South Sudanese troops (500) and Ugandan troops (2000) to the RTF.



SRSg for Central Africa Abou Moussa

The ceremony in Yambio followed one organized in Obo where 360 soldiers of the Forces Armées Centrafricaines (FACA) joined the RTF on 12 September 2012. According to AU Special Envoy Madeira, the authorities of the DRC gave assurances that they would also contribute troops to the RTF. In the meantime, Mr. Madeira drew attention to the remaining challenges, highlighting the urgency to mobilize more logistical and financial resources to facilitate the work of the Force. According to several observers, the arrest, on 12 May 2012 in the Central African Republic, of Caesar Acellam Otto, one of the commanders of the LRA, should motivate partners to heed the call for additional resources to capture the remaining LRA leaders. “Together, we can win the war against the LRA”, SRSg Moussa firmly assured during a global summit organized in Washington from 17 to 18 September by the NGO, Invisible Children.■

UNOWA

Mobilizing regional efforts to address crises in West Africa

The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) was the first regional conflict prevention and peacebuilding office of the United Nations, established in 2002, mandated to address cross-border conflict in the region and help build peace and security. Based in Dakar, UNOWA covers the 15 countries that make up the Economic Community of West African States or ECOWAS: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo as well as Mauritania. Its mandate was extended by the Security Council in December 2010 (S/2010/661), for an additional three years until December 2013.

The office serves three core functions: 1) it supports the good offices mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa (SRSG); 2) it works to enhance sub-regional capacity

for conflict prevention addressing cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, with a particular focus on election-related instability, security sector reform, mediation, terrorism and transnational organised crime, including illicit drug trafficking; and 3) it focuses on the promotion of good governance, human rights and gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention strategies.

In 2012, the political landscape in West Africa was dominated by the crisis in Mali and the Sahel as well as the post-coup developments in Guinea-Bissau. The SRSG for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, informed the Security Council in July 2012 that the security situation in the region remains “precarious and reversible as the root causes of instability are yet to be fully addressed.” SRSG Djinnit dedicated most of his good offices activities in 2012 towards supporting regional and international efforts for

the country’s return to civilian rule and constitutional order, including in close cooperation with the ECOWAS, the African Union (AU), and the Malian authorities in Bamako. UNOWA also helped to manage election-related tensions and supported the consolidation of democratic processes and institutions in the region, particularly in Senegal, Guinea and Togo.

Addressing cross-cutting issues

Given the changing security landscape, UNOWA has had to address a number of cross-cutting issues in the region to tackle these growing threats to peace and stability.

West Africa is frequently used as a transit point to European consumer markets by international criminal networks trafficking cocaine and heroin, and



Field assessment mission on the Cameroon-Nigeria border, Gotel Mountains, June 2011. (UNOWA/CNMC)

WEST AFRICA

is thus increasingly vulnerable to the threat of transnational organized crime and terrorism. As such issues continue to jeopardize governance and security in West Africa, UNOWA has lent its support to international and sub-regional efforts to combat these scourges.

Over the past year, UNOWA, together with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international partners, contributed to the renewal of the 2008-2011 ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa and to support its implementation.

UNOWA has had to address a number of cross-cutting issues in the region to tackle these growing threats to peace and stability.

Through the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI), UNOWA combined efforts to address the issue with Interpol, ECOWAS and United Nations partners, including UNODC and UN missions in the region as well as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and others. Among other areas, the WACI aims to build the capacity of national and regional law enforcement institutions, border management and anti-money-

laundering entities in four pilot countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. In 2012, the program was expanded to include Guinea.

Along with posing serious threats to maritime security, the escalation of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea has a negative impact on land too, by weakening the economies of the sub-region's coastal countries, such as Benin as well as the hinterland States served by these ports. In the context of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2039 (2012), UNOWA, with the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), continued to engage with regional and international partners regarding the development of a regional anti-piracy strategy for the Gulf of Guinea. The technical working group and the Steering Committee established jointly by ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea, as well as UNOCA and UNOWA, aims to organize a regional summit of the Gulf of Guinea States in 2013.

Protecting human rights

In 2012, UNOWA promoted regional efforts for the protection of human rights and gender mainstreaming through a number of initiatives. The Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in West Africa, coordinated by UNOWA, organized several activities to foster

the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) in West Africa. UNOWA also advocated, in collaboration with UN WOMEN, for full involvement and participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes to address current crises in the sub-region.

In June 2012, UNOWA organized, in partnership with the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), ECOWAS and the United Nations peacekeeping missions in the sub-region, a regional forum on "Media, Peace and Security in West Africa" in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). The seminar aimed at fostering mutual capacity-building and collaboration between various stakeholders to reinforce the participation of media in promoting peace and stability in the sub-region.

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, chaired by SRSG Djinnit, continued to make strides towards the implementation of the International Court of Justice's ruling (2002) on the states' territorial dispute. The border had been a subject of intense disagreement between the two countries for decades until they agreed to a UN-backed process to settle the matter. To date, the parties have reached agreement on more than 1,845 kilometers of an estimated distance exceeding 2,000 kilometers of border between the states. On 10 October 2012, the 10th anniversary of the ruling of ICJ, the Mixed Commission entered the final stage of the demarcation process. During the year, the Mixed Commission developed several projects, jointly with the United Nations Country Team, which promote joint economic ventures and cross-border cooperation. On 27 July 2012, the Government of Cameroon approved four such projects aimed at enhancing food security, water supply, capacity in vocational training and energy distribution along the shared border. In Nigeria, the selected projects focused on livelihoods, water, education, energy, resettlement and infrastructure. ■



Inaugural meeting of the Support and Follow-up Group on the Situation in Mali, held in Abidjan, June 2012. (AFP PHOTO/Sia Kambou)

UNPOS

Historic Year for Somalia's Political Progress

It was an historic moment. On 10 September 2012, a new Somali Federal Parliament sitting in Mogadishu elected a President—the first such democratic exercise in over 20 years. The transitional period had ended peacefully following an inclusive, transparent, legitimate, participatory and Somali-led process. Considered by many to be a hopeless, failed state just months ago, Somalia now has its best chance for peace in a generation. In Mogadishu, long tarred with the moniker of “most dangerous city on Earth,” the sound of gunfire and explosions has been replaced with the noise of construction and the hum of commerce. Flights into the city are booked months in advance. New restaurants and hotels open every day and the city's real estate boom produces frequent concrete shortages. Hope and progress have returned to Somalia.

This sea-change on the political landscape was set in motion by two events that

occurred at the end of 2011: the adoption of a “roadmap” and the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu. The signing of the Kampala Accord, which broke a political stalemate that had paralyzed an already dysfunctional Transitional Federal Government, produced a ‘Roadmap on Ending the Transitional Period’. The roadmap set a target date of August 2012 for the end of the transition and highlighted key areas for progress in security, constitution, reconciliation and good governance. The document was signed by the major Somali political players (the “Principals”) in Mogadishu in September 2011. Holding such a meeting in the Somali capital would have been unthinkable just months before, and it sent an unambiguous signal to Somalis, to the region and to the international community that the winds of change were blowing. The meeting itself could not have taken place without the remarkable concurrent progress on the security front. Faced with constant pressure from the

African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali security forces, the insurgent group Al-Shabaab—which had until a few months prior controlled most of the capital city—retreated from Mogadishu in August 2011. The timing of these two milestones provided an unprecedented opportunity for progress. After many false starts, this time the Somalis stepped forward and seized the opportunity for peace.

Peace process takes off

Following the adoption of the roadmap, the reenergized peace process began to accelerate. Maintaining momentum required the constant engagement of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and in particular the good offices and mediation efforts of Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, who moved his office to Mogadishu



A member of Parliament votes in the election for Speaker in Mogadishu, August 2012. (UNPOS PIU)



The new Somali Federal Parliament elects the Speaker, First Deputy and Second Deputy Speaker. Around 230 members participated in the voting, which was held at the Police Training Academy in Mogadishu, August 2012. (UNPOS PIU)

in January 2012 as soon as security conditions allowed.

The roadmap process was led by Somalis through constant consultation at every stage, in spite of a number of challenges including a split in the Somali parliament in December 2011 that paralyzed the legislature. Direct popular elections were deemed impractical due to logistical and security challenges. Instead, a system of indirect elections was established to move the process forward. These included 1) the traditional leaders, comprised of 135 recognized elders from across the country, that was mandated to produce the list of delegates to the National Constituent Assembly (NCA) and the new Federal Parliament; 2) the NCA, comprising 825 delegates from a broad cross-section of Somali society, that was to adopt the draft Provisional Constitution; and 3) the new, inclusive, Federal Parliament that was to select the President and represent Somalis in the interim period. To ensure transparency and provide quality control, all proposed names for the NCA and the Parliament were screened by a Technical Selection Committee (TSC) itself comprising of 27 Somali members (reflecting the 4.5 clan

formula) plus two non-voting members from UNPOS and seven international observers.

Adopting a draft Constitution

The NCA adopted on 1 August a long-debated draft Provisional Constitution, which will eventually be ratified through a referendum. This was one of the most critical benchmarks in the completion of the roadmap process. The Provisional Constitution provides for a new federal system of government based on democratic values, the rule of law, the promotion of human rights and the ideal of good and accountable governance, and serves as the supreme law of the country. In August 2012, the traditional leaders proposed 275 names representing all of Somalia's clans to form a new Federal Parliament. The names were then painstakingly vetted by the TSC, with all Committee members reaching across clan lines to select candidates. On 20 August, the new Parliament in Somalia was sworn in by the nation's Chief Justice. This was quickly followed by the selection of a new speaker of Parliament on 28 August, paving the way for the election

by Parliament of a President. Despite allegations of coercion and attempted vote buying, Somali lawmakers refused to be intimidated. Using the guarantee of the secret ballot as their protection, on 10 September the new Parliament overwhelmingly and transparently voted for change, replacing the incumbent, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, with Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, a civil and political activist who was a relative political unknown prior to the election. Thanks to UN-sponsored web streaming and live radio/TV broadcast, Somalis all over the world were able to watch in real time this historic event.

And progress continued. On 17 October, the President selected a new Prime Minister who after extensive consultations submitted the names of 10 candidates to form the new government. This small cabinet was overwhelmingly ratified by Parliament on 13 November, officially ending the eight-year-long transition and ushering in a new era for Somalia.

Throughout this momentous year, UNPOS continued to work alongside Somali partners from various sectors. UNPOS closely cooperated with regional interlocutors to avoid divisiveness and ensure a unified approach on key political issues. A joint framework was established between the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the UN and the African Union (AU), ensuring close collaboration on issues related to the Somali peace process. This joint international and regional response played a critical role in enabling the international community to speak with one voice in support of the peace process.

Women in politics

The end of the transition period also provided an opportunity for unprecedented women's participation in Somali politics and dramatically advanced the cause of gender equality in Somalia. In February 2012, principals

of the roadmap had endorsed a quota of 30 percent of women in the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC), the National Constituent Assembly and the New Federal Parliament. Of the 825 members of the NCA, 24 percent were women. The New Federal Parliament and the new cabinet have 14 and 20 per cent respectively and for the first time, a woman has been appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In the security and justice sector, UNPOS continued to coordinate international donor support through the auspices of the Joint Security Committee (JSC) with its working groups on military, police, justice and corrections, as well as maritime security and counter-piracy. These groups used the Somali National Security & Stabilisation Plan (NSSP), adopted by Presidential decree on 8 August 2012, as their principal planning, monitoring and reporting tool and made significant progress particularly in the military, police and maritime security areas.

UNPOS was also at the forefront of coordinating the international

community's engagement with Somalia to promote a harmonized and comprehensive approach to maritime security in the region. While piracy remains a challenge, the downward trend in 2012 demonstrated that international efforts to fight it can achieve progress. UNPOS is committed to work with its partners to consolidate international assistance and synergize activities in order to deliver a comprehensive response to the threat of piracy.

Human rights situation

Throughout 2012, the human rights situation remained critical, with continued reports of human rights violations, including widespread targeted killings of journalists and endemic sexual violence. However, tangible steps were taken to recognize the importance of human rights in the context of the political transition. UNPOS supported the development of the justice system through training of judges and lawyers, technical cooperation on policies and legislation and promotion of human rights in the military justice system. In the course of the year, the Somali authorities

and the UN also signed two action plans, one on stopping killing and maiming of children in conflict and the second on ending child recruitment.

Throughout this momentous year, UNPOS continued to work alongside Somali partners from various sectors.

The road to stabilization will not be without challenges. The security situation remains volatile with threats from Al-Shabaab remaining real. Somalia remains a weak state with fragile institutions. Many outstanding issues linger, not least the relationship between the Federal government and regional administrations. While Somalia has the best chance for sustainable peace in two decades, the challenges it faces are considerable. The international community will therefore need to continue to remain engaged and re-invest generously to build on these historic gains. ■



New parliamentarians pray during their inauguration ceremony for members of Somalia's first parliament in 20 years, Mogadishu, August 2012. (AU-UN PHOTO/Stuart Price)

UNSCO

Challenges in pursuit of the peace process

As the Middle East undergoes rapid and profound changes, much is at stake for Israel and Palestine. The lack of meaningful progress towards negotiations to achieve a two-state solution has led to a ‘make or break’ moment in the year ahead. Throughout 2012, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) pursued its efforts to put the peace process back on track. But moving the process forward remains a major challenge.

Preserving a two-state solution

The UN Special Coordinator, Mr. Robert Serry, maintained close contact with both parties, and worked with other Quartet partners (United States, European Union, Russian Federation) towards creating

the conditions for the resumption of meaningful negotiations to preserve the viability of the two-state solution. Jordan engaged the parties for five face-to-face discussions in Amman in January 2012, but this quiet engagement was not sustained after 25 January. The Quartet met in Washington, D.C. in April 2012 and continued to advocate for direct talks while envoys continued work toward this end.

On 29 November, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved a resolution according non-Member State Observer status to Palestine. This was a momentous event, but as the UNGA resolution and the Secretary-General made clear, it cannot be a substitute for meaningful negotiations to end the occupation and achieve the two-state solution on the ground.

Throughout 2012, UNSCO pursued its efforts to put the peace process back on track.

Meanwhile, Israel further intensified settlement-related activities, especially after the General Assembly’s vote. This included sensitive areas of East Jerusalem and plans to build more than 3,000 housing units in the “E1 area” that is critical for maintaining the territorial contiguity between East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Ongoing Israeli settlement building in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank is contrary to international law and Roadmap obligations, and



UN Special Coordinator Robert Serry celebrates UN Day with visually impaired children in Gaza, October 2012. (UNRWA/Shareef Sarhan)



UN Special Coordinator Robert Serry celebrates UN Day in Gaza, October 2012. (UNRWA/Shareef Sarhan)

seriously undermines prospects for a negotiated agreement.

In September 2012, Mr. Serry further reiterated to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee that “while the Palestinian Authority continued building the institutions of a future Palestinian state, the prolonged absence of a credible political horizon for a final status agreement, ongoing conflict and the occupation represent ever more acute challenges to this progress.” The United Nations continues to support the effort to develop the institutions of a Palestinian state while ensuring impressive progress is preserved and built upon.

UNSCO also supported efforts to overcome the internal Palestinian divide within the framework of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) commitments and under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas. In February 2012, Palestinian parties signed the Hamas–Fatah Doha agreement towards implementation of the May 2011 Cairo accords, but disagreement continued. In particular, efforts to advance reconciliation were delayed again when the de facto authorities in Gaza decided in July to suspend the voter registration

process that the Central Election Commission had planned in advance of municipal elections in October 2012.

New round of violence

A new devastating round of violence between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip erupted in mid-November. The “Understanding for Ceasefire” of 21 November resulted from intense diplomatic efforts by Egypt and the UN Secretary-General, who paid an emergency visit to the region. Mr. Serry took an active role in the ensuing discussions to solidify the understanding reached on the ceasefire. Throughout 2012, UNSCO continued its preventive diplomacy efforts in support of Egypt to restore a fragile calm after violent escalation on numerous occasions.

During his visit to Gaza immediately after the ceasefire, Mr. Serry stressed that the eruption of violence was a stark reminder that the status quo was unsustainable and that it was at long last an opportunity to address the underlying causes of conflict, as set out in Security Council Resolution 1860, including a full opening of crossings into Gaza and

end to weapons smuggling. On the same day, Mr. Serry also visited a suburb of Tel Aviv, where a rocket from Gaza destroyed large parts of an apartment building, and met with young residents whose safety was at stake by the escalation.

On 24 October, Mr. Robert Serry, marked UN Day by a visit to the UN Gaza office and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) project. He highlighted the vital role of the United Nations in Gaza, including in addressing chronic shortages of housing, education, water and sanitation and health facilities. The United Nations and its partners have continued to implement a \$1 billion programme of humanitarian assistance and development, including over \$400 million of reconstruction work.

A report entitled “Gaza in 2020—a liveable place?” prepared by the UN Country team and coordinated by UNSCO, was published in August 2012 and highlighted the increasing stress that population growth will place on the provision of clean water, electricity, health and education in Gaza. ■

UNSCOL

Maintaining Stability in Lebanon

Derek Plumbly took the post of United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon in February 2012 at a challenging time, as the war in neighbouring Syria began to increasingly affect Lebanon. As head of the office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) and in conjunction with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), he engaged with all parties to support the cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel, in line with Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006). The situation in the south of the country remained relatively calm. Lebanon's borders with Syria, however, saw an increase in cross-border violence, the smuggling of people and weapons and a growing flow of

Syrian refugees fleeing the violence in their country.

Regional instability, and in particular the conflict in Syria, have cast a shadow over Lebanon's once-booming economy.

During 2012, the Special Coordinator paid regular visits to the border areas affected by the conflict in Syria where a growing number of refugees, exceeding 170,000, had been officially registered by

the end of the year. They were receiving humanitarian assistance from United Nations agencies and the Lebanese government. As the conflict in Syria escalated, Palestinians were also affected and over 10,000 displaced Palestinian refugees sought temporary shelter in Lebanon. Throughout the year, the provision of shelters to Syrian refugees has been a key priority.

Improving border control

"The United Nations has repeatedly underlined the importance of respect for Lebanon's borders," Special Coordinator Plumbly said during one of his visits to



Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly with displaced Syrians in Aarsal, September 2012. (UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorritz)



Mr. Plumbly visits the Lebanese Army Mine Action Center in Nabatieh, in south Lebanon, June 2012. (UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz)

Lebanon's eastern border. Together with international partners, and in line with its mandate, UNSCOL worked to support the Lebanese Government to develop plans to further improve border control and to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces.

In June 2012, Lebanese political leaders met at the President's palace in Baabda and signed a declaration, which was welcomed by the Security Council, agreeing on a policy of "disassociation." By signing the "Baabda Declaration," all parties committed to maintaining the neutrality of Lebanon in order to preserve the stability of the country, which is still recovering from its own civil war.

That stability was severely tested when a car bomb exploded in a residential area in Beirut on 19 October 2012, killing Lebanon's intelligence chief General Wissam El Hassan, his aide and a passerby. Following two assassination attempts of prominent politicians earlier in the year, Hassan's assassination heightened fears that the raging conflict

in neighbouring Syria might spill over into Lebanon.

The event further heightened the deep divisions between Lebanon's political and religious groups. Lebanon's President Michel Sleiman held consultations with all parties to try to find a way forward acceptable to all. UNSCOL has supported the President's initiative. On 22 October 2012, Special Coordinator Plumbly led a delegation of Ambassadors from the five permanent members of the Security Council to express their support for the President and state institutions in their efforts to preserve stability and security in Lebanon.

Regional instability, and in particular the conflict in Syria, have cast a shadow over Lebanon's once-booming economy. The influx of Syrian refugees has coincided with a significant downswing in key employment sectors such as construction and tourism. Local communities that had generously hosted Syrian refugees have borne the brunt of these economic pressures, and have seen their resources erode, leading to increased social tensions.

The Deputy Special Coordinator, in his capacity as UN Humanitarian Coordinator, assisted the Government of Lebanon in mobilising donor funding for a national response plan, and worked with local host communities to improve livelihood opportunities.

UNSCOL is working to support the Lebanese Government in developing plans to further improve border control and to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces.

With the growing impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, 2013 will likely present new humanitarian and socio-economic challenges. Preserving Lebanon's stability and security in light of the conflict in Syria and continuing to promote the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) will be central to UNSCOL's efforts in the year ahead. ■

UNSMIL

Elections: A Success for Libya

With two days left for Libya's landmark elections, arson destroyed ballot papers and equipment in the city of Ajdabiya. This meant that Libya's first voting in 42 years was at risk of being postponed in one of the biggest constituencies in the country's east.

Even before that incident, there were serious concerns that the overall process, coming only a few months after a violent revolution that overthrew dictatorship, was in jeopardy. But Libyans proved the skeptics wrong, surprising the world and observers by turning out enthusiastically in large numbers to cast their ballot.

On 7 July 2012, 1.77 million Libyans, 39 per cent of whom were women, flocked to 1,546 polling centres around the country to elect 200 members of the General National Congress.

Ensuring credible elections

While UN teams on the ground assisted in ensuring credible elections as the first major step towards democratic rule, the greatest credit goes to the Libyans themselves and their electoral authorities for embracing the democratic transition.

"UNSMIL has spent the last year working closely with the authorities, civil society and the international community to ensure that no effort is spared in helping achieve the objective of democratic state building," the Special Representative for Libya and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, said in the days after taking office in October. "I look forward to

continuing this engagement with all the determination and perseverance it deserves."

An integrated team approach

Mitri's predecessor who oversaw UN efforts during the elections, Ian Martin, described Election Day as "an extraordinary triumphant day" for Libyans. "The UN's role has been of obvious importance given that the

electoral authorities in Libya started out with absolutely no experience and had to build electoral machinery from scratch."

UN assistance was instrumental in the electoral process. An integrated team that brought together members from UNSMIL, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) worked with their partners in the Libyan High National Election Commission to organize the



A woman in the eastern city of Benghazi flashes her inked finger along with twin key chains bearing the Libyan flag during celebrations marking the successful conclusion of national elections, July 2012. (UNSMIL/Iason Athanasiadis)



SRS Mitri converses with members of NGOs and civil society groups during a one-day visit to Benghazi, November 2012. (UNSMIL/Jason Athanasiadis)

polls. They advised on best practices drawn from experiences elsewhere and provided technical expertise.

Panto Letic, UNSMIL's Senior Electoral Advisor, recalls the race against time when the Ajdabiya warehouse arson destroyed election material on 5 July 2012. "All the work we had done in the past few months along with our Libyan counterparts was at risk of evaporating," he said.

Within the next 48 hours, election officials resupplied Ajdabiya with electoral material from Tripoli, about 1,000 kilometres away. "But missing was the most important of all: hundreds of thousands of ballot papers for the constituency lost in the fire," said Letic.

"UNSMIL has spent the last year working closely with the authorities, civil society and the international community to ensure that no effort is spared in helping achieve the objective of democratic state building."

Arrangements were made with the original Dubai printer for replenishments, but with only hours left before E-Day, delivering four tons of ballots became the challenge. Eventually, Libya's electoral commission secured a small private aircraft, which

flew with a full load on a half-tank and refueling in Cairo to arrive at dawn in Benghazi. There, the delivery was held up for several hours by roadblocks of election opponents. Materials were finally delivered to polling centres in time for thousands of Ajdabiyans who waited all day in line to vote.

"Elections are an important step in Libya's transformation, which is an evolving process," SRS Mitri said. "The Libyans are demanding more of their elected officials. Building a democratic state is a cumulative process that needs time and patience, but it necessitates, first and foremost, a sustained, coherent and determined effort by the government. The UN stands ready to assist Libyans in their nation building as requested." ■



Peacekeepers from the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, Port-au-Prince, May 2012. (UN Photo/Logan Abassi)

FACTS AND FIGURES



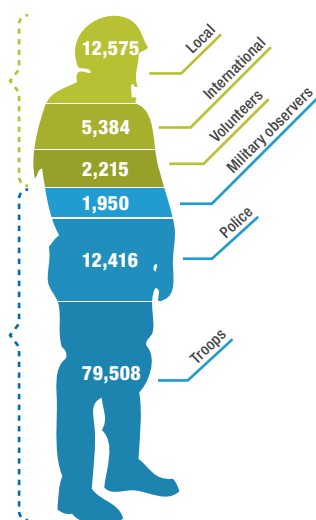
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS FACTS AND FIGURES

As of December 2012*

UN Peacekeeping operations: Breakdown by Categories of Staff

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL
20,174

UNIFORMED PERSONNEL
93,874



114,048

TOTAL FIELD PERSONNEL

115 COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING TROOPS, POLICE & MILITARY PERSONNEL

Gender Statistics: Female Uniformed & Civilian Peacekeepers



WOMEN CONSTITUTE

29% of the

5,398 international civilians working in peacekeeping operations

3

all-female UN police units have been deployed around the world



Haiti Bangladeshi unit

Liberia Indian unit

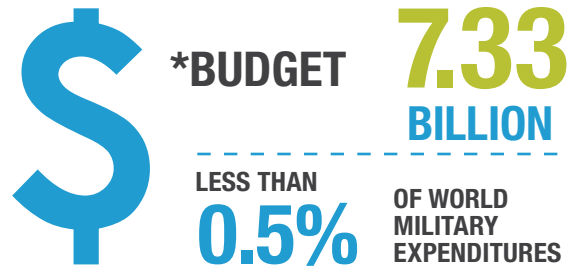
DRC Bangladeshi unit

*TOTAL
7,218 { Uniformed ▶ 3,512
Civilian ▶ 3,706

* Numbers include 15 peacekeeping operations only. Statistics on civilian personnel as of 31 October 2012. Statistics on UNMIT as of 31 November 2012. Statistics for UNAMA, a special political mission directed and supported by DPKO can be found on page 68 and at <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/ppbm.pdf>

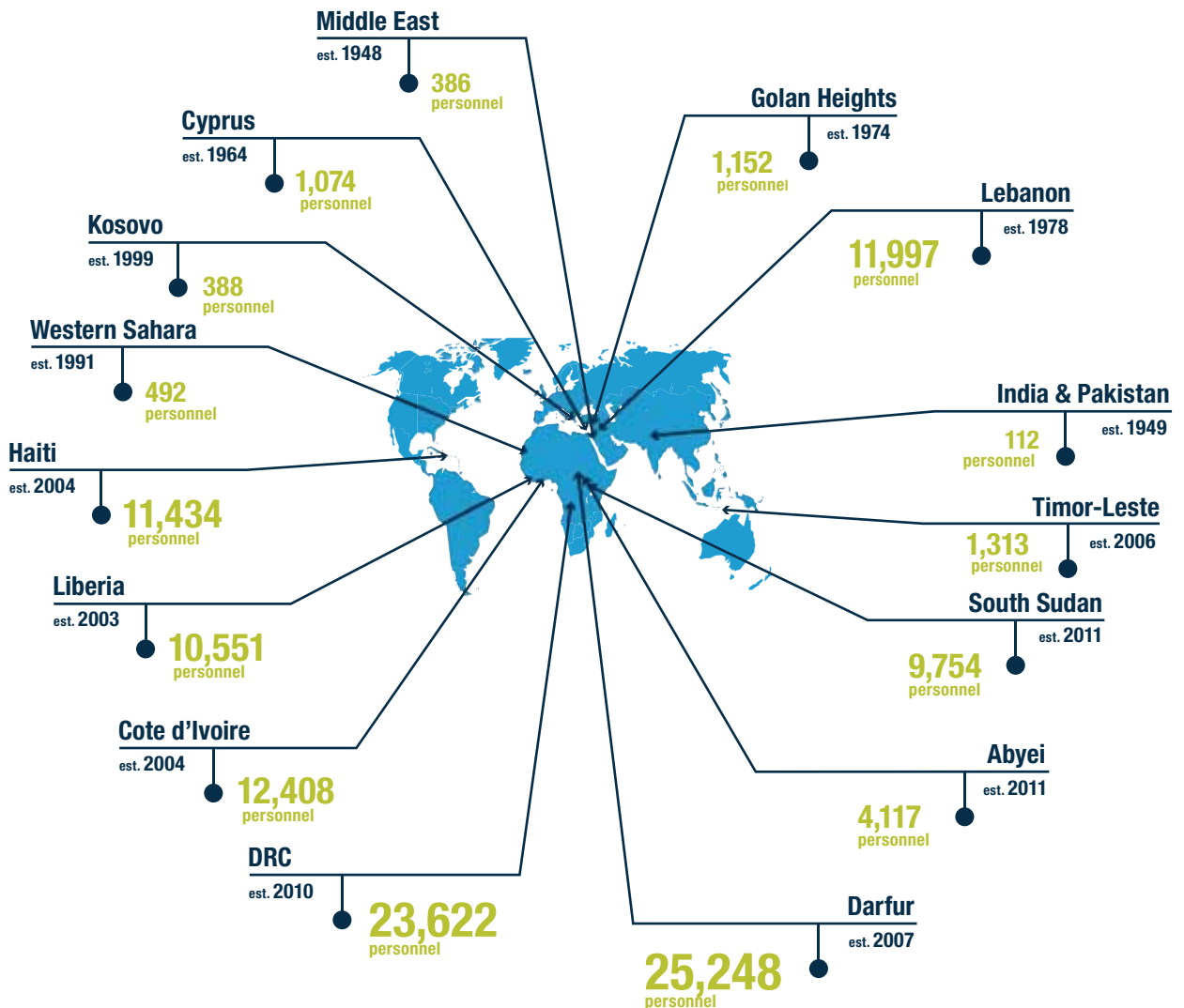
➤ UN Peacekeeping operations: Missions and Budget

PEACEKEEPING INCLUDES



*Approved budgets for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

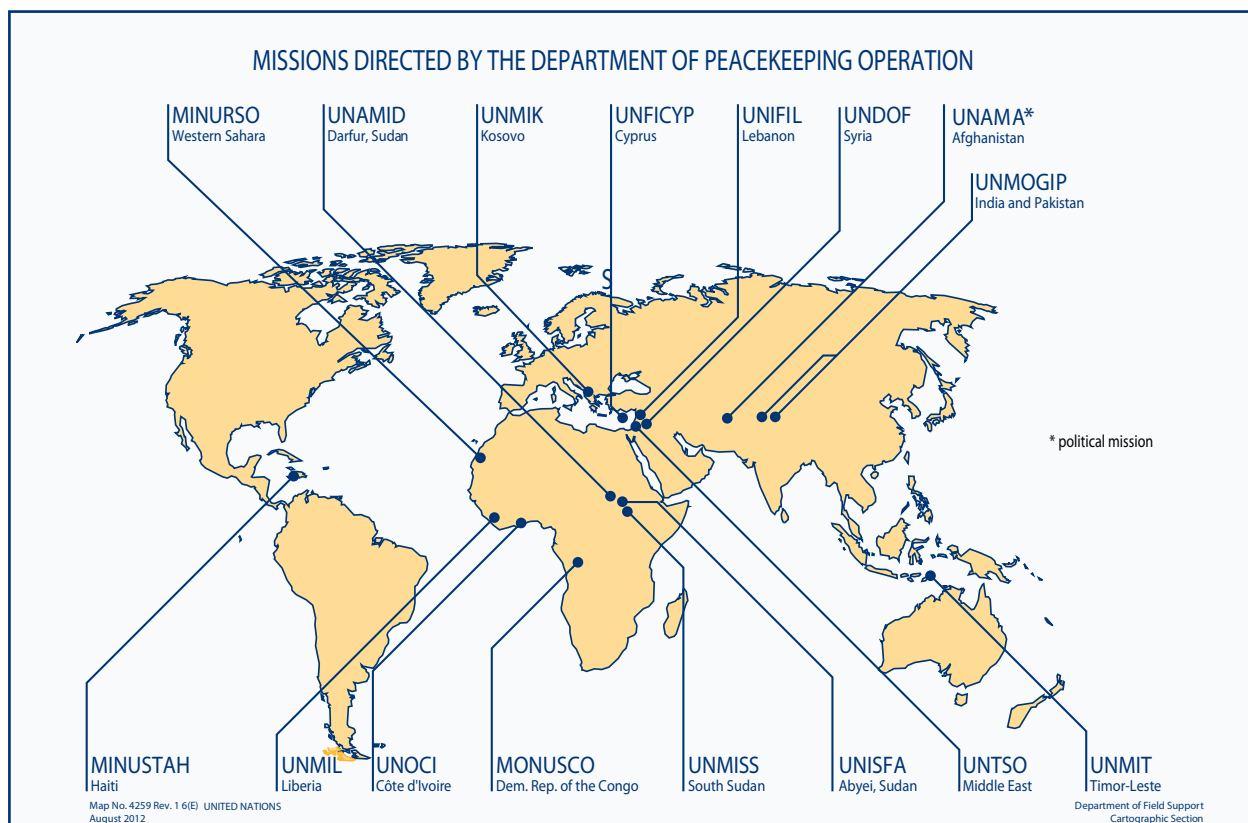
➤ UN Peacekeeping operations: Breakdown by Countries



UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

As of 31 December 2012

Peacekeeping operations since 1948	67
Current peacekeeping operations	15
Current peacekeeping operations directed and supported by the Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations	16



PERSONNEL

Uniformed personnel (79,508 troops, 12,416 police and 1,950 military observers)	93,874*
Countries contributing uniformed personnel	115
International civilian personnel (31 October 2012)	5,384*
Local civilian personnel (31 October 2012)	12,575*
UN Volunteers	2,215*
Total number of personnel serving in 15 peacekeeping missions	114,048
Total number of personnel serving in 16 DPKO-led peace operations	116,143**
Total number of fatalities in peace operations since 1948	3,080***

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Approved resources for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	About US\$7.33 billion
Outstanding contributions to peacekeeping	About US\$1.33 billion

*Numbers include 15 peacekeeping operations only. Statistics of UNMIT as of 31 November 2012. Statistics for UNAMA, a special political mission directed and supported by DPKO, can be found on page 68 and at <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/ppbm.pdf>

** This figure includes the total number of uniformed and civilian personnel serving in 15 peacekeeping operations and one DPKO-led special political mission - UNAMA

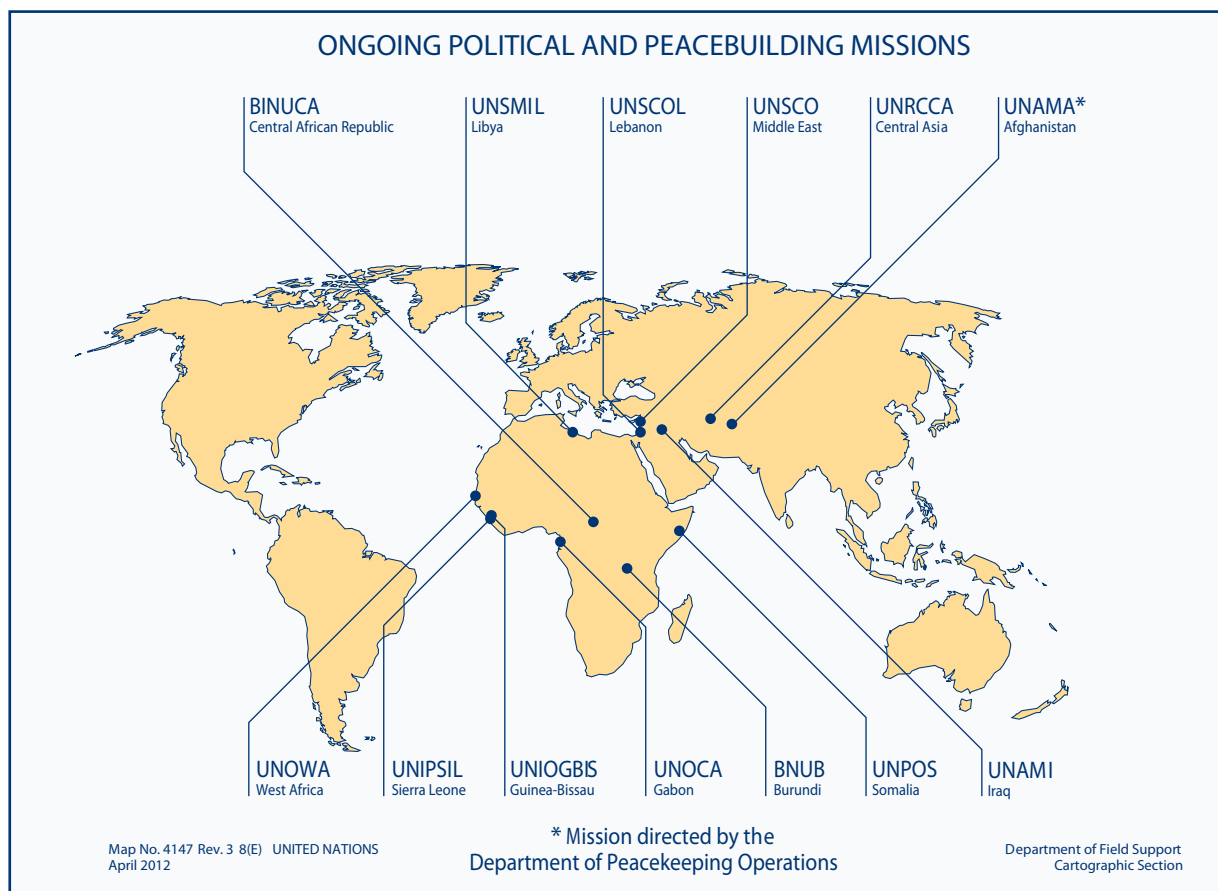
***Includes fatalities for all UN peace operations

CURRENT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

<p>UNTSO United Nations Truce Supervision Organization Strength: military observer 153; international civilian 94; local civilian 139; total personnel 386 Fatalities: 50 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$70,280,900 million</p>	<p>Since May 1948</p>	<p>UNOCI United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire Strength: military observer 181; troop 9,416; police 1,492; international civilian 418 ; local civilian 767; UN volunteer 190; total personnel 12,408 Fatalities: 106 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$575,017,000 million</p>	<p>Since April 2004</p>
<p>UNMOGIP United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan Strength: military observer 39; international civilian 25; local civilian 48; total personnel 112 Fatalities: 11 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$21,084,400 million</p>	<p>Since January 1949</p>	<p>MINUSTAH United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti Strength: troop 8,065; police 3,546; international civilian 568; local civilian 1,355; UN volunteer 236; total personnel 13,770 Fatalities: 168 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$793.52 million</p>	<p>Since June 2004</p>
<p>UNFICYP United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus Strength: troop 872; police 69; international civilian 38; local civilian 112; total personnel 1,091 Fatalities: 180 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$58.20 million</p>	<p>Since March 1964</p>	<p>UNMIT United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste Strength: troop 0; police 57; international civilian 302; local civilian 827; UN volunteer 124; total personnel 1,313 Fatalities: 16 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$162.21 million</p>	<p>Since August 2006</p>
<p>UNDOF United Nations Disengagement Observer Force Strength: troop 1,043; international civilian 41; local civilian 103; total personnel 1,187 Fatalities: 43 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$50.53 million</p>	<p>Since June 1974</p>	<p>UNAMID African Union–United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur Strength: military observer 262; troop 17,778; police 4,950; international civilian 1,124; local civilian 2,904; UN volunteer 483; total personnel 27,501 Fatalities: 104 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$1,689.31 million</p>	<p>Since July 2007</p>
<p>UNIFIL United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon Strength: troop 12,017 international civilian 353; local civilian 666; total personnel 13,036 Fatalities: 293 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$545.47 million</p>	<p>Since March 1978</p>	<p>MONUSCO United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Strength: military observer 675; troop 17,778; police 1,401; international civilian 977; local civilian 2,895; UN volunteer 584; total personnel 23,622 Fatalities: 52 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$1,347,538,800 million</p>	<p>Since June 2010</p>
<p>MINURSO United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara Strength: military observer 195; troop 27; police 6; international civilian 102; local civilian 165; UN volunteer 19; total personnel 514 Fatalities: 15 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$63.22 million</p>	<p>Since April 1991</p>	<p>UNISFA United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei Strength: military observer 74; troop 3,724; international civilian 20; local civilian N/A; total personnel 3,818 Fatalities: 5 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$175.50 million</p>	<p>Since July 2011</p>
<p>UNMIK United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo Strength: military observer 9; police 7; international civilian 150; local civilian 215; UN volunteer 26; total personnel 407 Fatalities: 54 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$44.91 million</p>	<p>Since June 1999</p>	<p>UNMISS United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan Strength: military observer 169; troop 4,803; police 485; international civilian 697; local civilian 1,117; UN volunteer 226; total personnel 7,497 Fatalities: 1 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$722.13 million</p>	<p>Since July 2011</p>
<p>UNMIL United Nations Mission in Liberia Strength: military observer 131; troop 7,778; police 1,297; international civilian 477; local civilian 991; UN volunteer 255; total personnel 10,929 Fatalities: 164 Approved budget 07/12–06/13: \$525.61 million</p>	<p>Since September 2003</p>	<p>Missions ended in 2012: UNSMIS 21 April 2012 - 19 August 2012 United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria UNMIT 25 August 2006 - 31 December 2012 United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste</p>	

UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING OPERATIONS

As of 31 December 2012



NUMBER OF MISSIONS

13

PERSONNEL

Uniformed personnel	346
International civilian personnel (31 October 2012)	1,272
Local civilian personnel (31 October 2012)	2,486
UN Volunteers	97
Total number of personnel serving in political and peacebuilding missions	4,201

For information on United Nations peacekeeping operations, see DPI/1634 Rev.140 or visit the United Nations website at <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/bnote010101.pdf>

CURRENT POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING OPERATIONS

UNPOS

Since 15 April 1995

United Nations Political Office for Somalia

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Augustine Mahiga (Tanzania)

Strength: international civilian 55; local civilian 32; military advisers 3;
police 0

UNSCO

Since 1 October 1999

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East

Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine
Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority:
Robert H. Serry (Netherlands)

Strength: international civilian 29; local civilian 31

UNOWA

Since 29 November 2001

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

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Said Djinnit (Algeria)

Strength: international civilian 22; local civilian 18;
military advisers 3

UNAMA*

Since 28 March 2002

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Ján Kubiš (Slovakia)

Strength: international civilian 387; local civilian 1,614;
military advisers 18; police 5; UN volunteer 71

UNAMI

Since 14 August 2003

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq:
Martin Kobler (Germany)

Strength (staff based in Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait):
international civilian 380; local civilian 463; troop 242;
military advisers 5; police 4

UNSCOL

Since 16 February 2007

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon

Special Coordinator for Lebanon:
Derek Plumbly (United Kingdom)

Strength: international civilian 19; local civilian 59

UNRCCA

Since 10 December 2007

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Miroslav Jenca (Slovakia)

Strength: international civilian 7; local civilian 2

UNIPSIL

Since 1 October 2008

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone

Executive Representative of the Secretary-General:
Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen (Denmark)

Strength: international civilian 36; local civilian 33; UN volunteer 8; police 7

BINUCA

Since 1 January 2010

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Margaret Vogt (Nigeria)

Strength: international civilian 67; local civilian 84; military advisers 2; UN
volunteer 5; police 2

UNIOGBIS

Since 1 January 2010

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
José Ramos-Horta (Timor-Leste)

Strength: international civilian 61; local civilian 53; military advisers 2;
police 16; UN volunteer 7

BNUB

Since 1 January 2011

United Nations Office in Burundi

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Parfait Onanga-Anyanga (Gabon)

Strength: international civilian 52; local civilian 67; military advisers 1;
police 1; UN volunteer 6

UNOCA

Since 1 January 2011

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Abou Moussa (Chad)

Strength: international civilian 19; local civilian 6; military advisers 1

UNSMIL

Since 16 September 2011

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:
Tarek Mitri (Lebanon)

Strength: International civilian 137; local civilian 23; police 2

*Mission directed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

LIST OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS 1948 - 2012

As of 31 December 2012

Acronym	Mission Name	Start Date	End Date
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	May 1948	Present
UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	January 1949	Present
UNEF I	First United Nations Emergency Force	November 1956	June 1967
UNOGIL	United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon	June 1958	December 1958
ONUC	United Nations Operation in the Congo	July 1960	June 1964
UNSF	United Nations Security Force in West New Guinea	October 1962	April 1963
UNYOM	United Nations Yemen Observation Mission	July 1963	September 1964
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	March 1964	Present
DOMREP	Mission of the Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic	May 1965	October 1966
UNIPOM	United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission	September 1965	March 1966
UNEF II	Second United Nations Emergency Force	October 1973	July 1979
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	June 1974	Present
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	March 1978	Present
UNGOMAP	United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan	May 1988	March 1990
UNIIMOG	United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group	August 1988	February 1991
UNAVEM I	United Nations Angola Verification Mission I	January 1989	June 1991
UNTAG	United Nations Transition Assistance Group	April 1989	March 1990
ONUSCA	United Nations Observer Group in Central America	November 1989	January 1992
UNIKOM	United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission	April 1991	October 2003
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	April 1991	Present
UNAVEM II	United Nations Angola Verification Mission II	June 1991	February 1995
ONUSAL	United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador	July 1991	April 1995
UNAMIC	United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia	October 1991	March 1992
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force	February 1992	March 1995
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia	March 1992	September 1993
UNOSOM I	United Nations Operation in Somalia I	April 1992	March 1993
ONUMOZ	United Nations Operation in Mozambique	December 1992	December 1994
UNOSOM II	United Nations Operation in Somalia II	March 1993	March 1995
UNOMUR	United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda	June 1993	September 1994
UNOMIG	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia	August 1993	June 2009
UNOMIL	United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia	September 1993	September 1997
UNMIH	United Nations Mission in Haiti	September 1993	June 1996
UNAMIR	United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda	October 1993	March 1996
UNASOG	United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group	May 1994	June 1994

Acronym	Mission Name	Start Date	End Date
UNMOT	United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan	December 1994	May 2000
UNAVEM III	United Nations Angola Verification Mission III	February 1995	June 1997
UNCRO	United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia	May 1995	January 1996
UNPREDEP	United Nations Preventive Deployment Force	March 1995	February 1999
UNMIBH	United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina	December 1995	December 2002
UNTAES	United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium	January 1996	January 1998
UNMOP	United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka	January 1996	December 2002
UNSMIH	United Nations Support Mission in Haiti	July 1996	July 1997
MINUGUA	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala	January 1997	May 1997
MONUA	United Nations Observer Mission in Angola	June 1997	February 1999
UNTMIH	United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti	August 1997	December 1997
MIPONUH	United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti	December 1997	March 2000
UNCPSG	UN Civilian Police Support Group	January 1998	October 1998
MINURCA	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic	April 1998	February 2000
UNOMSIL	United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone	July 1998	October 1999
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo	June 1999	Present
UNAMSIL	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone	October 1999	December 2005
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor	October 1999	May 2002
MONUC	United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	November 1999	June 2010
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea	July 2000	July 2008
UNMISSET	United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor	May 2002	May 2005
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia	September 2003	Present
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	April 2004	Present
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti	June 2004	Present
ONUB	United Nations Operation in Burundi	June 2004	December 2006
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in the Sudan	March 2005	July 2011
UNMIT	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste	August 2006	Present
UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur	July 2007	Present
MINURCAT	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad	September 2007	December 2010
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	July 2010	Present
UNISFA	United Nations Organization Interim Security Force for Abyei	June 2011	Present
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan	July 2011	Present
UNSMIS	United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria	April 2012	August 2012

PEACEKEEPING CONTRIBUTORS

(Police, Military Experts on Mission and Troops as of 31 December 2012)

No.	Country	Police	MEM	Troops	Total
1	Algeria		5		5
2	Argentina	31	6	988	1,025
3	Armenia			1	1
4	Australia	25	20	11	56
5	Austria		8	537	545
6	Bangladesh	1,814	85	6,929	8,828
7	Belarus			5	5
8	Belgium	2	5	122	129
9	Benin	112	27	872	1,011
10	Bolivia		15	209	224
11	Bosnia and Herzegovina	42	5		47
12	Brazil	12	16	2,171	2,199
13	Brunei			30	30
14	Bulgaria		2		2
15	Burkina Faso	281	15	806	1,102
16	Burundi	109	9	2	120
17	Cambodia		4	364	368
18	Cameroon	101	5		106
19	Canada	119	20	11	150
20	Central African Republic	21			21
21	Chad	63	4	1	68
22	Chile	14	5	514	533
23	China	32	37	1,800	1,869
24	Colombia	12			12
25	Cote d'Ivoire	161			161
26	Croatia	10	15	102	127
27	Cyprus			2	2
28	Czech Republic		5		5
29	Denmark		17	14	31
30	Djibouti	42	2		44
31	DR Congo	17			17
32	Ecuador		8	67	75
33	Egypt	439	95	3,043	3,577
34	El Salvador	11	10	52	73
35	Estonia		1		1
36	Ethiopia	21	104	5,732	5,857
37	Fiji	42	2	199	243
38	Finland		23	177	200
39	France	54	21	893	968
40	Gambia	100	5	202	307
41	Germany	16	10	156	182
42	Ghana	193	55	2,566	2,814
43	Greece			53	53
44	Guatemala		12	291	303
45	Guinea	40	11		51
46	Honduras		12		12
47	Hungary	1	7	81	89
48	India	1,022	73	6,744	7,839
49	Indonesia	163	21	1,533	1,717
50	Iran		2		2
51	Ireland	12	20	360	392
52	Italy	5	17	1,105	1,127
53	Jamaica	12			12
54	Japan			278	278
55	Jordan	1,781	52	1,672	3,505
56	Kazakhstan	4			4
57	Kenya	42	29	781	852
58	Kyrgyzstan	11	5		16
59	Lesotho		2	1	3
60	Macedonia , FYROM			1	1
61	Madagascar	68			68

No.	Country	Police	MEM	Troops	Total
62	Malawi	59	18	861	938
63	Malaysia	47	34	896	977
64	Mali	45	18		63
65	Moldova		8	1	9
66	Mongolia		11	921	932
67	Montenegro	4	2		6
68	Morocco		6	1,595	1,601
69	Mozambique		1		1
70	Namibia	10	15	6	31
71	Nepal	718	60	3,651	4,429
72	Netherlands	19	14	7	40
73	New Zealand		12	1	13
74	Niger	186	17	935	1,138
75	Nigeria	536	63	4,842	5,441
76	Norway	24	20	12	56
77	Pakistan	540	90	8,337	8,967
78	Palau	1	1	1	3
79	Papua New Guinea		2		2
80	Paraguay		30	179	209
81	Peru		21	375	396
82	Phillippines	95	12	620	727
83	Poland	2	8		10
84	Portugal		2		2
85	Qatar			3	3
86	Republic of Korea		16	363	379
87	Romania	37	33	2	72
88	Russia	15	67	4	86
89	Rwanda	467	17	4,213	4,697
90	Samoa	7			7
91	Senegal	744	48	1,323	2,115
92	Serbia	13	10	104	127
93	Sierra Leone	193	11	138	342
94	Slovakia		2	159	161
95	Slovenia		3	14	17
96	South Africa	71	23	2,044	2,138
97	Spain	15		708	723
98	Sri Lanka	42	13	1,017	1,072
99	Sweden	48	25	3	76
100	Switzerland	5	18	2	25
101	Tajikistan	13			13
102	Tanzania	263	28	1,049	1,340
103	Thailand	12	9	4	25
104	Timor -Leste		2		2
105	Togo	178	16	526	720
106	Tunisia	63	33	3	99
107	Turkey	157	2	477	636
108	Uganda	32	6	3	41
109	Ukraine	56	24	436	516
110	United Kingdom	2	4	277	283
111	United States of America	101	8	19	128
112	Uruguay	16	42	2,127	2,185
113	Yemen	240	72	6	318
114	Zambia	174	35	6	215
115	Zimbabwe	62	10	2	74



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For information on UN peacekeeping visit:
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/>

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