



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES
UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)

FACT SHEET 3: **UNAMSIL Mandate in Support of Elections**

The United Nations Security Council, in a resolution adopted unanimously on 16 January 2002, gave the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) wide-ranging security tasks for the upcoming May elections, stressing that holding them freely, fairly and transparently was vital to long-term stability.

Under resolution 1389 (2002) the Council authorized UNAMSIL to undertake, within its existing mandate, capabilities and areas of deployment and in the light of conditions on the ground, election-related tasks as set out in the Secretary-General's report of 13 December 2001 (S/2001/1195), the tasks that shall include:

- (a) Assisting with logistic support to the National Electoral Commission for the transport of electoral materials and personnel, including the use of the air assets of UNAMSIL to reach areas inaccessible by road, the storage and distribution of election materials prior to the elections, the movement of ballot papers after the elections, logistic assistance to international election observers, and the use of the civilian communications facilities of UNAMSIL in the provinces;
- (b) Facilitating the free movement of people, goods and humanitarian assistance throughout the country;
- (c) The provision of wider security and deterrence, through its presence and within the framework of its mandate, throughout the period of preparation for the elections, the polling period itself, and the period immediately after the announcement of the election results, and, exceptionally, being prepared to respond to situations of public disorder, with the Sierra Leone Police taking the lead, especially in the vicinity of polling stations and the locations of other related activities;

The Council also reaffirms that, in the discharge of its mandate, UNAMSIL may take the necessary action to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel and, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, to afford

protection to civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, taking into account the responsibilities of the Government of Sierra Leone, including the Sierra Leone Police;

It authorized the increase in the United Nations civilian police (CIVPOL) by 30 officers and encouraged the Secretary-General to request a further increase if appropriate, and endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation that CIVPOL should advise and support the Sierra Leone Police in carrying out their election-related responsibilities. It also requested CIVPOL to assist the Sierra Leone Police to devise and implement an electoral training programme for their personnel, focused mainly on establishing security for public events, human rights and police conduct.

In its resolution, the Security Council welcomed the interim establishment of an electoral component in UNAMSIL aimed at strengthening UNAMSIL's contribution to facilitating, in particular, the coordination of electoral activities between the National Electoral Commission, the Government of Sierra Leone and other national and international stakeholders.

It also welcomed the intention of UNAMSIL to establish in each electoral region a UNAMSIL electoral office from which to monitor the electoral process, and to provide, within available resources, assistance to international election observers.

The Council noted with appreciation the ongoing support being provided by the Public Information Section of UNAMSIL to the National Electoral Commission in designing and implementing a civic education and public information strategy, and encouraged UNAMSIL to continue these efforts.

Finally, the Council underlined the responsibility of the Government of Sierra Leone and the National Electoral Commission for the holding of free and fair elections, and encourages the international community to provide generous support and assistance to that end.