

UNITED NATIONS



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*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE BRIEFS UNAMSIL STAFF ON  
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LATEST REPORTS**

*Freetown* - The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Behrooz Sadry, yesterday briefed UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) personnel on the Security Council decisions on the draw down plan for UNAMSIL and on UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's latest proposals on reforming the world body.

In his address at UNAMSIL Headquarters in Freetown, Mr. Sadry informed the staff that the Security Council had recently approved the recommendations made in Mr. Annan's report to the Council outlining UNAMSIL's draw down plan. He explained that the plan was based on certain benchmarks that needed to be achieved by the Sierra Leone Government before UNAMSIL finally withdraws from the country.

He elaborated that the Security Council had advocated that phases 1 and 2 of the UNAMSIL's proposed military draw down, which includes a reduction of 4500 troops, should be completed within eight months. The Security Council has also advocated an increase of up to 170 UN Civilian Police to assist in training and development of the Sierra Leone Police. Also mentioned in the resolution is the need for assistance to the Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

On the Secretary General's reform proposals, which were published on 23 September 2002, in a Report entitled "Strengthening the United Nations: An Agenda For Further Change", the Acting Special Representative said that these proposals were meant to further strengthen the UN and to improve its ability to meet current and future challenges. He added that unlike previous reform efforts, this one was at the initiative of the Secretary-General and that it was not in response to cries for reform from Member States, nor was it an exercise in budget cuts. He said that some of these proposals would be implemented immediately while others would require the approval of UN Member States.

The report proposes reforms in five broad areas: doing what matters, serving member states better, working better together, allocating resources to priorities and the organization and its people: investing in excellence.

More specifically, some of the initiatives proposed in the report include restructuring the UN's Department of Public Information, strengthening the world body's human rights work, reaching out to partners in civil society and the private sector, and improving staff performance and career opportunities.

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Earlier on, Mr. Sadry asked those present to observe a minute of silence in remembrance of UNAMSIL's photographer, Mr. Ahmed S. Kabba, who passed away on Monday.