

Excerpts from the Report of the Secretary-General  
on the Work of the Organization  
[UN document, A/63/1]

....

## “Peacekeeping

“39. Peacekeeping is a core function of the United Nations. Peacekeeping operations constitute a critical step towards achieving sustainable peace. They have an important role in assisting national actors in the development and implementation of peacebuilding strategies and work in partnership with the United Nations country team, the international financial institutions and other international partners.

“40. In this sixtieth anniversary year of United Nations peacekeeping, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat leads 19 missions with more than 130,000 women and men, including troop and police contributions from 117 Member States, supported by a budget of some US\$ 7 billion.

“41. In order to ensure that the current demands on our peacekeeping operations are met in such a way as to encompass their scale and complexity, I initiated the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. This included the creation of a new Department of Field Support, the establishment of the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Integrated Operational Teams, and a number of new shared mechanisms. The Department finalized several essential doctrine documents this past year including, notably, the “capstone” doctrine contained in “United Nations Peacekeeping Principles and Guidelines”. The Department also continues to make progress on the Peace Operations 2010 reform agenda.

“42. During this reporting period, peacekeeping operations provided wide-ranging support to peace. In Haiti, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, our operations played a key role in supporting political processes, some of which hovered precariously between conflict and peace. In Kosovo, the role of the United Nations remained key to ensuring a safe and secure environment and stability in the region, and our operations adapted to the evolving situation on the ground so as to allow regional organizations such as the European Union to play a greater operational role within the status-neutral framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and under the overall authority of the United Nations.

**“43.** Peacekeeping operations also supported the efforts of State institutions to fully restore their authority. In Lebanon, for example, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is playing a key role in facilitating the return of the Lebanese Armed Forces to the area south of the Litani River, and in creating conditions within its area of responsibility needed to enable governing structures to function normally.

**“44.** Peacekeeping operations are working with key partners to provide more holistic support to national efforts in policing, the building of justice and corrections capacity, the removal of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and the design and conduct of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programmes. For example, in mid-March, an expert mission comprising various United Nations entities and external parties visited Timor-Leste and issued a report (S/2008/329, annex) that made comprehensive recommendations on policing and broader rule-of law and security sector reform issues. Reflecting the need to ensure early deployment of the police component, a Standing Police Capacity was established and deployed to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) to assist the Chadian law enforcement agencies in establishing and training a special Chadian police element.

**“45.** In 2008, peacekeeping operations also reinforced States’ capacities to protect human rights through translating international human rights standards into national laws, regulations and policies. Missions advised on laws aimed at providing human rights protection in Burundi and Sierra Leone, and also assisted in strengthening domestic judicial processes in Liberia.

**“46.** In addition to support for our current operations, the past year saw the deployment of two of our most complex operations to date, namely, to Darfur and to Chad and the Central African Republic. The ongoing deployment of these operations has been supported by recent peacekeeping innovations. The first Integrated Operational Team at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Headquarters provided support to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur in developing and implementing an integrated deployment plan. It also supported the African Union and United Nations Special Envoys in their efforts to bring the parties to the negotiating table. To assist in our work in Chad, we developed innovative partnership arrangements with the European Union.

**“47.** Unfortunately, our many successes to date are challenged by two key issues: a number of unacceptable cases of sexual misconduct by some of our own peacekeepers and a mismatch between mandates and resources.

**“48.** Extensive activities have been undertaken at Headquarters and in the field to prevent

and address sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel. These include: training, streamlined and strengthened reporting mechanisms, awareness-raising and outreach activities both for United Nations personnel and for the host populations, a pilot campaign to address prostitution/transactional sex, and the establishment of welfare and recreation activities. The Secretariat and Member States have also agreed to a new model memorandum of understanding with troop-contributing countries that provides the United Nations with more reliable leverage for addressing sexual exploitation. Member States have also adopted a comprehensive strategy on assistance to victims. We need to ensure that the Secretariat and Member States are serious about the issue and that action is taken as we strive towards zero impunity.

**“49.** Given the increased complexity and range of our operations and the difficult political and security environments in which many operations are deployed, now more than ever the international community must strengthen its commitment to them. Troop and police contributions are limited. Many Member States are already overstretched. Yet, at the same time, the demands being placed upon troop and police contributors and the Secretariat continue to rise. I urge Member States to maintain a common purpose behind peacekeeping. This requires sustained political engagement with relevant parties so that there is a peace to keep, and the provision of necessary resources to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping can live up to the expectations of it held by those most vulnerable.”

....

