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Annan condemns Hizbollah attack, calls for immediate release of Israeli soldiers



12 July - United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today called for the immediate release of two Israeli soldiers seized by Hizbollah militants from Lebanon and conferred with key leaders on the attack, which he condemned as a “blatant breach” of Security Council resolutions and of the line separating the two countries.

“This incident, and subsequent developments, which endanger an already volatile region, demonstrates once again how urgent it is that the Lebanese Government extends its control over all Lebanese territory and prevents such attacks across the Blue Line,” he said in a statement issued by his office.

Mr. Annan’s Personal Representative for Lebanon, Geir Pedersen, said the attack was to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

“We are deeply disturbed by this violent breach of the Blue Line which contradicts the stated intent of the Lebanese side to maintain calm and stability along the Line,” he added in a statement. “Hizbollah’s action escalates the already tense situation along the Blue Line and is an act of very dangerous proportions. This is not in Lebanon’s interest.”

He called on Hizbollah to release the soldiers and urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint and avoid any further escalation.

UN spokesperson Marie Okabe said Mr. Annan had already spoken by telephone to Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora and United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and had calls that he would be making to the Israeli and Syrian leaders. "So he's very much working the phones... appealing for the release of the soldiers and for maximum restraint to be obeyed," she told a news briefing.

The Security Council was briefed on the situation by Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno.

Speaking to the press afterwards, the Council President, French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière, said members agreed to follow the developments in Lebanon closely. "We will come back to it," he said.

Mr. Annan, who is currently in Rome, told reporters after meeting with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi that both leaders felt extremely concerned by the situation in the Middle East.

On Israel's reported killing in a bombing raid of a family in Gaza, Ms. Okabe said Mr. Annan was "distressed," deplored the action, and "reminds Israel of its obligation under international law to protect civilians from the effects of the conflict."

She added that the Secretary-General "calls on both sides to exercise greater restraint."

UN Security Council condemns India bomb attacks

12 July - The United Nations Security Council today condemned "in the strongest terms" the bomb attacks that caused hundreds of deaths and injuries in Mumbai and other parts of India yesterday, calling them "heinous acts of terrorism" and urging all States to cooperate with the Indian Government in bringing those responsible to justice.



Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security," the 15-member body said through a consensus statement read out by its President for July, Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sablière of France.

It reminded States of their obligation to combat terrorism under Council resolutions, while at the same time complying with international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Further engagement with Sudan needed on UN Darfur force, peacekeeping chief says



USG Guéhenno

12 July - Misunderstandings between the Government of Sudan and the international community concerning a proposed United Nations mission in Darfur must be cleared up if the peace agreement it is meant to support is to be successful, the world organization's top peacekeeping official said today.

"There was not enough engagement," Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, told the press after briefing the Security Council on his discussions with Sudanese President Omar al Bashir and other African leaders on the margins of the African Union (AU) Summit meeting held in Banjul earlier this month.

In his talks with President al Bashir in Banjul, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that there was agreement on the need to immediately strengthen the AU mission in Darfur (AMIS) and to consolidate the peace accord in that region, which has seen scores of thousands of people killed and over 2 million displaced.

However, the Sudanese President's agreement on the deployment of a UN force, which peacekeeping officials have said was needed by January 2007 to fully implement the peace accord, was not secured in the talks, Mr. Guéhenno said, although progress had been made in dispelling any notion that such a force would have any "colonial" or other hidden objectives.

“The international community is interested in Darfur because it is interested in helping the people of Sudan and the Government of Sudan in establishing the authority of the State and peace and security throughout the territory,” the peacekeeping chief said he stressed.

Mr. Guéhenno also emphasized that further engagement with the Government was needed. “I think we need to continue that discussion, because clearly the Government of Sudan has to be a part of the solution.”

In any case, he said it was important to strengthen AMIS and make sure that the situation in Darfur does not deteriorate in the next six months, and for that reason he said he had highlighted to the Council the importance of a conference aimed at supporting the AU mission, to be held on 18 July in Brussels.

UN envoy says dialogue possible over Georgia-Abkhazia conflict; stresses police role

12 July - The outgoing United Nations envoy for Georgia said today that there now exists a “possibility for a political dialogue” between Georgian authorities and Abkhaz separatists over a dispute that flared into open warfare 14 years ago, while stressing the important role being played by UN police in the region and the need for them to be allowed onto both sides of the conflict zone.



Heidi Tagliavini

Summing up her four-year experience, Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s Special Representative for Georgia, Heidi Tagliavini said, “we started from a total deadlock in the negotiation in the peace process over very practical steps, to actually a possibility for a political dialogue now that I am leaving.”

Speaking to reporters in New York, she recalled the sequence of events leading to the present. “I called for an assessment mission on the security situation in the conflict zone and we deployed after its completion a United Nations police force in that region and unfortunately we could not deploy it on both sides...but I believe that the police is really the force that is needed in the conflict zone as the problems are not so much security-military related in the area but much more crime-related.”

Ms. Tagliavini, who is now returning to her home country, Switzerland, said she was also “confident” that because of the discussions over the past four years her successor would be able to get both sides to sign agreements on the return of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees, as well as on security guarantees.

She also highlighted a meeting in May of the Coordinating Council of Georgia’s Government and Abkhaz separatists, its first gathering since 2001, as a “mechanism of negotiation” between the two sides and emphasized that any long-term solution to the conflict would depend on compromise.

“It is my deep belief that you cannot force a solution on anybody. A solution must be one which is mutually agreed and which requires unfortunately some sacrifices from both sides.”

Ms. Tagliavini briefed the Security Council on her past four years as head of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) yesterday, discussing the Secretary-General’s latest report on the conflict that called on all sides to implement and honour previous understandings and commitments, particularly regarding security and human rights.

The conflict in Abkhazia, strategically located on the Black Sea, began with social unrest and attempts by the local authorities to separate from the Republic. It escalated into a series of armed confrontations in the summer of 1992. A ceasefire agreement was concluded later that year but never fully implemented and the fighting that followed forced nearly 300,000 refugees to flee their homes.

Civil society input crucial to global talks on migration, Deputy Secretary-General says



Mark Malloch
Brown

12 July - As delegates from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and the private sector gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York today for hearings on international migration and development, Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown hailed their input as crucial to the intergovernmental approach to the issue.

“The role of civil society is to warn us, and to make sure that we don’t overlook, the real risks of international migration, particularly in the area of human rights,” he told participants.

Mr. Malloch Brown pointed to the fact that migrants “are often the victims of unscrupulous employers without protection in the workplace,” who are “denied rights in new host States – not just political and civil rights, but also through the denial of access to education and healthcare for their families.”

Mr. Malloch Brown also called attention to other issues that could benefit from civil society input, including the problem of “brain drain” and the need for banking systems to protect remittances sent by migrants to their home countries.

The informal, interactive hearings come after the release in June of a major report by Secretary-General Kofi Annan on international migration and development and ahead of a “high-level dialogue” to be held by the General Assembly on 14 and 15 September.

Mr. Malloch Brown said the September high-level dialogue would aim to raise awareness of the general subject while spelling out the linkages between international migration and poverty reduction. It would also “highlight the best practices and best policies being used by countries to tackle these issues,” he said.

In his report, the Secretary-General proposed a standing forum led by all UN Member States which governments could use to share ideas and discuss best practices and policies related to international migration and how it ties in with development.

The consultative forum, Mr. Malloch Brown said, “reflects a feeling that work on migration policy at the national and international level is much too divided between different domestic ministries, between Ministries of Labour, Interior, Refugee Affairs, Social Affairs and Foreign Ministries.”

Forming an international and consultative forum “will force countries to assign responsibility for this issue, and then to engage with their counterparts in the North and South around the world to start getting the right trade-offs between the issues of those countries from which migrants come, and those countries to which migrants go,” he said, noting that “it is no longer a simple North-South division; there is a lot of inter-regional migration and other flows, which have largely got lost in the debate so far.”

States, UN agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) should all play a part, the Deputy Secretary-General said, voicing hope that governments “would allow space for civil society participation at the appropriate moments in their discussions as well.”

Annan underlines Holocaust remembrance as crucial to preventing future genocides

12 July - The United Nations will expand its partnerships with civil society to commemorate the uniqueness of the Holocaust in human history and to draw from the Nazi German murder of millions of Jews and other minorities lessons to help to prevent future acts of genocide, Secretary-General Kofi Annan has told the General Assembly.

“Through the recollection of the journeys of those who perished and by sharing the experiences of the survivors at



commemorative events, in exhibits and on web pages, the programme will show that the failure of mankind to prevent the Holocaust has direct relevance to the dangers of genocide that persist today," Mr. Annan says in his report on the Assembly's 2005 resolution instituting official remembrance of the tragedy.

He gives a breakdown of activities undertaken so far by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), entrusted with carrying out an outreach programme in accordance with the resolution which established 27 January as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

These activities included a series of events and published articles during the week of 27 January itself both at UN Headquarters in New York and at UN outposts around the world, from Bangkok to Rome, Asmara in Eritrea to Vienna, Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso to Geneva and Yangon in Myanmar to Warsaw, Poland.

Other events held throughout the year have included exhibitions, conference and panel discussions in various countries.

Mr. Annan notes that DPI decided to conduct the outreach programme under the overall theme of Remembrance and Beyond. "This theme serves to highlight the main two elements of the programme – remembering the victims of the Holocaust and helping to prevent future acts of genocide," he writes.

DPI will provide civil society organizations with materials developed by individual experts and institutions with a proven track record in the field of Holocaust remembrance, education and research, he says. The outreach programme will also continue to devise innovative means and methods by which its mandate to further Holocaust remembrance can be realized.

In its resolution designating 27 January, the Assembly reaffirmed that "the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities, will forever be a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice."

UN agencies report improved cooperation thanks to reform efforts

12 July - The United Nations has improved its field operations to help countries pursue their development goals as a result of better interagency cooperation, the heads of UN agencies told the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) today, but still more reforms are necessary.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system at the country level has taken on a new sense of urgency since last year's World Summit, Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, told the Council, which meets in Geneva. "This is one of the main dimensions of the wider United Nations reform."

One of the lessons learned over recent years and that is now being applied, said Ann Veneman, Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), is that during times of transition from humanitarian to relief to development, a mixture of approaches was required with clear priorities and responsibilities in order to ensure results. "There is now a strong consensus that early recovery actions should begin at the same time as humanitarian assistance," she said.

UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Kemal Dervis said it was important that UN bodies work in a concerted manner as one coherent group in order to put measures in place that help countries achieve their development goals. To avoid duplication of efforts, he suggested that the agencies be physically located in a common office.

"A streamlined country presence should be placed in the context of how this contributed to a more coherent, coordinated, and a more effective UN presence" aimed at helping States to achieve the internationally agreed development goals," said Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The purpose of management reform, she added, was to ensure that the UN system was more efficient in delivering its aid, while upholding universally agreed human rights.

"There is nothing more important than working in partnership to achieve concrete results from the programmes in order to touch the lives of people, and provide them with hope for the future," said James T. Morris, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP).



DR of Congo: UN mission investigates use of police force against demonstrators



12 July - As historic elections set for 30 July in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) draw closer, the UN Organization Mission in the country (MONUC) said today it has opened an inquiry into yesterday's violent dispersal of a demonstration in the capital Kinshasa, allegedly because the event's organizers lacked proper authorization.

"The inquiry should establish whether the demonstrators constituted, by their number or their behaviour, a serious threat to public order," MONUC said, explaining: "If that was not the case, the use of force by the CNP (Congolese National Police) was not justified."

A recent Security Council mission to the country warned of political deterioration in the country on the eve of the elections, which will be the first in the vast country in 45 years and the largest and most complex electoral-assistance mission ever undertaken by the UN, despite the fact that preparations for a successful poll are on course.

MONUC noted that Congolese laws provide for the right to hold public demonstrations, and yesterday's, having been duly announced, should not have been prohibited and repressed.

UN food agency warns it will halt its Chechnya operation soon without more funds

12 July - Already forced because of lack of funding to reduce assistance to displaced people from war-torn Chechnya, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today warned it would have to halt its operation in the devastated republic entirely in three months unless fresh pledges are made soon.

"From October, we will have absolutely nothing left to distribute," said Koryun Alaverdyan, WFP's Deputy Country Director in the Russian Federation. "The people we seek to assist are the poorest survivors of the Chechen conflict."

The UN agency, which also because of lack of funding has had to cut back on the number of Chechens it can support, has mobilized only 28 per cent of the \$22 million it needs to feed 250,000 people this year. These include 130,000 primary school children in Chechnya and 27,000 Chechens displaced by the conflict, living in the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia.

Since the beginning of the year WFP has been able to provide only wheat flour, rather than the standard ration that also includes vegetable oil, sugar and salt, and in May insufficient donations forced the agency to cut the number of displaced Chechens being assisted in Ingushetia from 27,000 to 16,000.

"Without outside help, these people will have to fend for themselves, which means resorting to measures such as selling what meagre assets they have left," said Mr. Alaverdyan. "That would make it even more difficult for them to start rebuilding their lives."

The conflict in Chechnya, which began in September 1999, forced many people to flee into neighbouring regions, and a still-precarious security situation has prevented many from returning home, WFP said. Of the 39,000 who have returned since 2004, many live in dire conditions, struggling to survive amidst the devastation, high unemployment and escalating poverty.

WFP provides food aid through soup kitchens for orphans, the disabled and the elderly in Grozny, the Chechen capital. It also supports food-for-work projects, allowing participants to be paid in food to rehabilitate agricultural and other infrastructure. Activities also include food-for-training schemes and food-for-education programmes for primary school children.

Donors to WFP's current operation include Canada, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and multilateral funds.

3.5 million Angolan children targeted for measles vaccination in UN-backed campaign

12 July - More than 3.5 million Angolan children are to be vaccinated against measles in a United Nations-backed integrated health campaign beginning today which will also provide many with polio immunization, vitamin A, de-worming medication and long-lasting insecticide treated nets against malaria.



The campaign, launched by the Government and its partners in the Measles Initiative, the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the United States President's Malaria Initiative, is a follow-up to a previous anti-measles offensive in 2003, which reached 96 percent of the targeted group in the southern African country.

"The number of reported measles cases declined dramatically after the successful 2003 campaign, but routine coverage still requires strengthening in many provinces," said Angela Kearney, a UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative in Angola.

The integrated campaign will be carried out with support from the Measles Initiative, a partnership to reduce measles deaths in sub-Saharan Africa that is led by the UN Foundation, UN World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the American Red Cross and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It underlines the importance of follow-up in a country where only 64 per cent of children receive routine measles immunizations. Part of the Government's Maternal and Child Health Mortality Reduction Programme, it will focus on vulnerable children, especially those in border regions where there has been a re-emergence of measles outbreaks.

Drawing on the 2003 success, additional life-saving activities will be integrated into the measles campaign. Some 800,000 insecticide treated nets will be distributed across seven provinces where malaria transmission rates are highest. Insecticide treated nets are proven to be one of the most effective methods for preventing malaria, a leading cause of death and disability for children in Angola.

Children under age five will also receive polio vaccinations, vitamin A and de-worming medication.

Since 2001, the Measles Initiative has vaccinated more than 213 million children in more than 40 African countries, saving approximately 1.2 million lives. Through the financial and technical support of the Measles Initiative and the commitment of African governments, measles deaths in Africa have fallen 60 per cent between 1999 and 2004, a significant step toward the overall goal of reducing measles deaths worldwide by 90 per cent by 2010.

New UN-backed fishing accord seeks to ensure conservation in Indian Ocean



Seas area under SIOFA

12 July - Faced with a marked increase in fishing on the high seas, six countries have signed an agreement covering a vast area of the South Indian Ocean in what a United Nations official has hailed as a major step forward in conservation and sustainable fishing.

The Comoros, France, Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand and Seychelles and the European Community signed the accord, the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), following two days of talks last week at the Rome headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO).

"Much of great value has been done to ensure that fishing in these areas is conducted responsibly, but there is a need to build

on the existing efforts of the industry members involved,” FAO expert Ross Shotton said.

The accord seeks to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources other than tuna in areas outside national jurisdictions. It calls for effective monitoring, annual reports on the amounts of captured and discarded fish, and inspections of ships visiting ports of the Parties to verify they are in compliance with SIOFA.

Landing and discharging privileges are to be denied to those who do not comply. Other joint actions include regular studies of the state of fish stocks and the impact of fishing on the environment, joint management and conservation measures, and establishing rules for member countries to decide which operators are allowed to fish in the SIOFA area.

It is hoped that other countries will soon join the Agreement, which will enter into force once FAO, its legal depositary, receives the fourth instrument of ratification, including at least two from coastal states.

FAO Fisheries Department official Jean-Francois Pulvenis de Séligny stressed SIOFA’s importance as a major step forward in establishing new regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to cover areas where no such mechanism currently exists. It will join the existing network of fishery commissions already established such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

FAO is fully committed to supporting implementation of the Agreement, although in the end its success or failure will depend mainly upon the efforts of the Parties and those of all other relevant stakeholders, Mr. Pulvenis said.

The role of the fishing industry in ensuring responsible fishing is particularly vital in the high seas, where recent years have seen a marked increase in catches, including those of non tuna species which are caught at considerable depths.

UN tourism agency teams up with Microsoft to boost African tourism

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION



12 July - The United Nations tourism agency has teamed up with Microsoft to use information technology to improve the industry’s competitiveness and quality in developing countries, especially in Africa which at present accounts for only 4 per cent of international tourism.

“This agreement is a huge leap forward for tourism... job creation, export income and capacity building for the world’s poorest countries - especially in Africa where it will be integrated into our programmes to alleviate poverty through sustainable tourism,” UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Secretary General Francesco Frangialli said.

The agreement, announced yesterday at the Global Leaders Forum for Africa in Cape Town, South Africa, has two immediate projects in hand involving the creation new information portals.

The first, called “Windows on Africa” and developed by UNWTO and the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), will showcase the continent in a globally competitive way. It will be able to be replicated at the national and local levels and link to visitor centres, museums, and libraries. Ultimately, it will even provide real-time advice via mobile devices with destination specific data.

The second portal, supporting UNWTO’s Emergency Response System, will collate information on catastrophes affecting tourism, providing a framework for improved industry response by bringing together public and sector-specific data and incorporating tools for information sharing and improved messaging.

It will help tourism destinations and stakeholders to respond more rapidly and effectively in emergencies and help recovery programmes. It will be used initially to strengthen industry preparedness for a potential bird flu pandemic.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates cited the public/private partnership with UNWTO as the kind of implementing programme that will help over 40 million people in Africa drive toward future economic growth. “Microsoft wants to play a hands-on



role to help countries and entire regions develop their knowledge-based economy, create jobs, spur growth and enable innovation," he said.

"We can do this by providing easy and affordable access to technology and helping our partners build robust local software economies," he added.

In another development, UNWTO reported that an estimated \$682 billion was spent abroad by tourists in 2005, up \$49 billion or 3.4 per cent on the previous year, pushing spending by tourists abroad to an average of more than \$2 billion a day when transport costs of \$130 billion are factored in - some 6 per cent of global export of all goods and services.

Africa's increase over the previous years was 7.8 per cent, which Mr. Frangialli hailed as "a significant success story."

UN World Heritage Committee threatens to de-list German site if bridge is built

12 July - The United Nations World Heritage Committee has threatened to remove the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany, an outstanding complex of baroque buildings and natural landscape, from its list of humankind's priceless cultural legacy if local authorities go ahead with plans to build a bridge over the river.



Dresden Elbe Valley

It would be the first time any site has been struck off the World Heritage List, which currently numbers 812 sites declared to be of outstanding universal value in terms of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 1972 World Heritage Convention.

At its annual meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Committee put the 18-kilometres-long site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in an effort to avert Dresden municipality's plans to build the bridge, which it said would have such a serious impact on the "integrity of property's landscape" that it may no longer deserve to be on the World Heritage List.

It added that it would "consider, in a prudent manner, delisting the site from the World Heritage List in 2007 if the plans are carried through."

The site is an outstanding cultural landscape that integrates the celebrated baroque setting and suburban garden city into an artistic whole within the river valley. It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004.

At the same time, the Committee removed Cologne Cathedral in Germany, Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary in Senegal, the Group of Monuments at Hampi, India and Ichkeul National Park in Tunisia from the List of World Heritage in Danger thanks to improved conservation.

In the case of Cologne, municipal officials decided to scale down plans for new high rise buildings that threatened the dominant landmark position on the city skyline of the Cathedral, a masterpiece of German Gothic architecture begun in 1248 and completed in 1880.

In Djoudj, bio-control measures enabled managers to eradicate invasive plant species that threatened the wetland sanctuary for some 1.5 million birds. Reduced motor traffic and the decision to change the location of a planned shopping centre removed the threat to the Hampi complex of rich temples and palaces built in the 14th to 16th centuries, when it was the capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar.

And in Ichkeul, an end to using the lake's water for agriculture cut the salinity of the last fresh water lake in a chain that once extended across North Africa and is now a sanctuary for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds.

The Committee, which meets until 16 July, will also pick new candidates to join the World Heritage List that already includes sites as unique and diverse as the wilds of East Africa's Serengeti, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the baroque cathedrals of Latin America.



UN workshop in Monrovia aims to help Liberia meet treaty obligations

12 July - United Nations experts are helping Liberia meet obligations under the many international treaties it has entered into as it emerges from over a decade of civil conflict, through a five-day workshop in the capital Monrovia.

The workshop, which runs until 14 July, was requested by Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs who said at Monday's opening that while the country was no stranger to international treaty law it was lagging behind in implementing some treaties from which its people could greatly benefit.

Participants from all Liberian ministries, as well as the legislature and civil society organizations, are taking part in the five-day programme.

"The problem of treaty law management and implementation lost its focus due to the 14-year-plus armed conflict which has destroyed every sector of the Liberian society," said Foreign Minister George Wallace, adding that since so much data was lost during the war there was a need for data storage, back-up and retrieval systems that were less vulnerable to natural or man-made disasters.

Last September the Chairman of Liberia's National Transitional Government submitted 103 treaty actions at the annual UN treaty event signing, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

UN Resident Coordinator Steven Ursino said that the workshop would help Liberians leave war behind and develop "a legacy of recovery" in the capacity-building process that in turn would allow problems to be solved.

Bradford Smith, of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, added that the UN system and its partners were ready to support Liberia, especially in the area of international treaty reforms.