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## **Annan calls on both Palestinians and Israelis to take measures to defuse crisis**



Kofi Annan

**29 June** - Voicing deep concern over developments in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today called on both sides to take measures to defuse the tension.

In a statement issued by his spokesman, Mr. Annan cited the continued detention of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian militants; the killing by Palestinian militants of an Israeli civilian; further rocket attacks against Israel; and Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip which have resulted in a serious deterioration in humanitarian conditions.

“He is also concerned that Israel has detained 64 Palestinian officials, cabinet ministers and members of the Legislative Council, who were elected in January,” the statement said.

“The Secretary-General calls on the Palestinian Authority to do its utmost to secure the release of the Israeli soldier, and to end rocket attacks against Israel and other action by militants,” it added.

The Government of Israel was called on “to show restraint, to avoid actions that damages civilian infrastructure and that aggravates the hardship of the Palestinian population, and to abide by international humanitarian law.”

In order to prevent a further decline in the humanitarian situation, the Secretary-General said “Israel should also act urgently

to facilitate the import of essential medical supplies, food stuffs, and particularly fuel into the Gaza Strip.”

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been assessing the situation in the Gaza Strip, where it says that nearly half the population is currently without electricity.

The problem could persist for up to nine months, OCHA said, noting that the reduced capacity is affecting the provision of water, with daily access for families being cut by up to 50 per cent in some parts of the Gaza Strip.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has stepped up its activities in pre-positioning food and other supplies in parts of Gaza so that it can offer assistance to people in need, while the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) have also been increasing food aid.

## UN-sponsored meeting calls on Israel to pull out of Gaza, Palestinians to stop rockets



**29 June** - A United Nations-sponsored international meeting aimed at advancing Middle East peace wrapped up its sessions last night with a call to Israel to halt its invasion of Gaza, withdraw from the Strip and stop escalating the current crisis. It also called on the Palestinians to end their rocket attacks on Israel.

Such actions put civilians in serious danger and inflame and destabilize the already fragile situation, according to the final document adopted by the meeting, convened in Vienna by the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Participants, including UN representatives, internationally renowned experts from the region, parliamentarians, and members of the academic community and civil society, expressed particular concern at the recent upsurge in violence and its destructive effect on the hopes for peace.

The text condemned Israel's intensified military strikes, incursions and extrajudicial assassinations.

Alarmed at the large number of Palestinian civilians killed in the last few weeks and believing that the escalation warranted an impartial international investigation, the meeting supported a request for Secretary-General Kofi Annan to facilitate such a probe.

## Timor-Leste: as demonstrators mass, UN envoys seek to calm tensions

**29 June** - With thousands of demonstrators milling around in the Timor-Leste capital of Dili, United Nations envoys today stepped up their efforts to calm tensions and plan for a possible expanded UN police force in the small South-East Asian nation that the world body shepherded to independence from Indonesia just four years ago.



Sukehiro  
Hasegawa

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed three members to an Independent Special Commission of Inquiry to investigate the lethal violence that shook the country in April and May and recommend measures to ensure those guilty of any crimes and serious violations of human rights are brought to account.

Mr. Annan's Special representative in Timor-Leste Sukehiro Hasegawa called on political leaders to ensure that their followers and supporters restrain themselves from any behaviour that might result in further violence amid tensions attributed to differences between eastern and western regions.

Some 3,000 demonstrators riding in 150 trucks descended on Dili Thursday in a show of support for former Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, who resigned Monday. They were escorted by troops from the Combined Task Force from Australia, New Zealand, Portugal and Malaysia, invited in by the Government to help quell the violence.

On Monday, thousands of anti-Alkatiri demonstrators circulated throughout the city in a similar number of trucks.

The crisis erupted in late April with the dismissal of 600 soldiers, a third of the armed forces. Ensuing violence cost at least 37 lives and drove over 155,000 people, 15 per cent of the total population, from their homes into makeshift camps or to host families.

Mr. Annan's Special Envoy Ian Martin, who arrived in Dili on Monday, held a series of high-level meetings with government leaders on the next stages of the UN assistance, meeting with government ministers, including Senior Minister Jose Ramos-Horta and Minister of State Ana Pessoa.

In a separate meeting with President Xanana Gusmão, he and UN police advisor Mark Kroeker exchanged concrete ideas on the role of an expanded UN police force.

The world body first set up the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in 1999 after the country voted for independence from Indonesia, which had taken it over at the end of Portugal's colonial rule in 1974. Mr. Martin was Mr. Annan's Special Representative in the territory there at that time.

This robust structure was kept until independence in 2002, when UNTAET was replaced with a downsized operation, the UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET). This in turn was succeeded by the current, even smaller UN office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL).

Violence yesterday, in which at least 20 houses were burned in Dili, threatened to hamper UN food distribution to tens of thousands of already hard-pressed people sheltered in displaced persons camps.

The three members Mr. Annan appointed to the inquiry commission are Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of Brazil, who will chair it, Zeldi Holtzman of South Africa and Ralph Zacklin of the United Kingdom.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour set up the panel Commission at Mr. Annan's request after the Timor-Leste Government asked for it and the Security Council welcomed the ideas. It will sit in Dili, begin its work in July, and report its findings to the Secretary-General within three months.

## Head of Security Council visit to Sudan stresses need for UN force in Darfur



Amb. Emyr Jones Parry

**29 June** - Any United Nations peacekeeping mission that takes over from the African Union (AU) in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region will need to work in "partnership" with the country's people and Government, the head of the recent Security Council mission there said today, while repeating the delegation's view that such a force was needed to curb the killings in a region that has also seen more than 2 million people displaced.

British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, addressing the 15-member body on the mission's report of its trip, also reiterated the importance of viewing the situation in Sudan in terms of the wider region, in particular the situation in neighbouring Chad where the delegation also visited.

"We came away I think all again reconfirmed in our view that, as the African Union has itself decided, it is right that the UN should take over the peacekeeping operation in Darfur, that's the short-term objective," he said.

"I would only end by stressing this: the wish that we all kept repeating and which is fundamental to policy, in wanting to see a partnership with the Government and the people of Sudan. It's a partnership, we can't do this without the consent of the Government, that is obvious.

"Our wish is to see an improvement in all aspects of the situation in Sudan and that the United Nations should play its part working with that Government and its people," the Ambassador concluded.

France's ambassador to the UN, Jean-Marc de la Sablière, who led the mission's trip to Chad, also addressed the Council today and again emphasized the importance of viewing the situation in Darfur in terms of regional peace, in particular highlighting the worsening relations between the two countries in recent months.

"Relations between Sudan and Chad have deteriorated greatly...and one of the issues that arises for the Security Council is the border issue," he said, while also emphasizing concerns over conditions in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons in Chad, many of whom have fled attacks by Janjaweed militia in Darfur.

"I want to underline the following – the fact of the humanitarian situation in the refugee camps of displaced persons gives rise to grave concerns...we were very much affected by the issue of forced recruitment and the problems pertaining to ensuring security of humanitarian workers."

Sudan's Government have so far refused to accept a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur but Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said that he, along with African officials, would be discussing the matter with Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir at a meeting sponsored by the AU in the Gambia on Saturday.

Mr. Annan has also said he had appealed to Security Council members to bring their collective and individual pressure to bear not just on the Sudanese Government to support the deployment, but also on the rebels that are outside the peace agreement on Darfur – that was signed last month – to sign it, and on all parties to implement the pact in good faith.

## Security Council condemns killing of Russian diplomats in Iraq

**29 June** - Avowing that no cause can justify acts of terror, the United Nations Security Council today condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the killing of four Russian envoys in Iraq following their abduction earlier this month.

"The Security Council is appalled by the horrific death of members of the Russian Diplomatic mission in Iraq who had been kidnapped by a terrorist group and later ruthlessly and in cold blood executed by their captors," the 15-Member body said through a statement read out by its President for June, Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj of Denmark.



Amb. Ellen Margrethe Løj

Conveying its condolences to the families of the deceased and to the Russian Federation, the Council also urged all States to cooperate with efforts bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of such acts.

It stressed the importance of supporting the Government of Iraq to exercise its responsibility in providing protection to the diplomatic community, United Nations staff and other foreign civilian personnel working in the strife-torn country.

## Secretary-General sets first meeting on accord between Nigeria and Cameroon

**29 June** - The first meeting on the details of transferring authority in West Africa's Bakassi Peninsula from Nigeria to Cameroon, as agreed in a recent pact signed under United Nations auspices in New York, will take place in Geneva during the first week of July, Secretary-General Kofi Annan has told the Security Council.

In a letter to the President of the Council sent yesterday, Mr. Annan said that former UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Kieran Prendergast will serve as Chairman of the follow-up committee for the implementation of the Greentree Agreement in which Nigeria conclusively recognized Cameroon's sovereignty over the territory and agreed to withdraw its troops and administration from it.

In addition to high-ranking officials from both Nigeria and Cameroon, four witness States will also be represented on the Committee, whose establishment "within 60 days" was mandated by the 12 June agreement.

Located on the Gulf of Guinea, the Peninsula had been the subject of intense, at times violent disputes between the two

countries for dozens of years when Cameroon referred the matter to the International Court of Justice in 1994, which in 2002 awarded it to Cameroon, citing a 1913 agreement between Britain and Germany.

The modalities of Nigeria's final withdrawal, however, had defied the efforts of adjudicators until Mr. Annan engaged the Presidents of the two countries in several days of intensive mediation earlier this month.

## **Annan reappoints group of experts on Liberia 'blood diamond' sanctions**

**29 June** - Following last week's action by the United Nations Security Council to extend the prohibition of trade in "blood diamonds" from Liberia – gems that are said to fuel conflict in the region – Secretary-General Kofi Annan has reappointed the panel of experts who assess the impact of that sanctions regime.

In a letter to the Council, Mr. Annan designated Arthur Blundell of Canada to serve as the Chairman of the panel, which includes four other expert members from France, India, Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom, now reappointed for six months, until 21 December 2006.

The Security Council first imposed wide-ranging sanctions on Liberia in May 2001 after receiving reports that the West African country's natural resources were fuelling conflict in the region.

At the 20 June meeting, during which the diamond sanctions were extended, the Council lifted the ban on the export of round logs and timber, applauding the country's new President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, for her efforts in managing the nation's forests.

## **Eritrea releases 1 of 10 detained UN staff members**

**29 June** - One of ten detained Eritrean staff members of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) has been released by the Eritrean Government, mission officials said today.

The move follows several months of national staff members being detained and released by Eritrean authorities, and as UNMEE continues to protest, it also awaits an explanation of the reason for the arrests.

UNMEE monitors the ceasefire along the disputed border over which the East African countries fought a two-year war from 1998-2000.

## **UN Human Rights Council adopts documents on disappearances and indigenous peoples**



**29 June** - The newly established United Nations Human Rights Council today adopted a landmark treaty to prevent and punish the crime of enforced disappearances, estimated to amount to 40,000 cases from 60 countries, and also the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, legislation that had been debated for 11 years.

"I wanted to express how happy we are because we were able to have the first important, very substantive decisions of the new Council," Ambassador of Mexico, Luis Alfonso de Alba, the newly elected President of the Council, told reporters in Geneva. The Council, which replaced the much-criticized Human Rights Commission, opened its first session on 19 June and this runs until tomorrow.

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances defines such actions as crimes and as crimes against humanity when they are widespread or systematic. The Convention, which focuses on preventive measures as well as the rights of victims, is now being forwarded to the General Assembly for final adoption.

"In the case of the Convention on Disappearances, it's an effort that very much touches the lives of many people, not only in

Latin America, but also around the world...I think it is a very well deserved homage to the victims that the new Council's first decision was to adopt the Convention, and without a vote," said Mr. de Alba.

Turning to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which had been debated for 11 years, the 47-member Council adopted this by a vote of 30 in favour, 12 abstentions and 2 against (3 absent).

"In the case of the Declaration [on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples], I am also very happy, because it was a very long process of negotiations that have finally come to an end. It had been a very difficult process because we were forced to strike a balance between the interests of very different points of views from Governments and indigenous peoples."

"But finally we came to a compromise. This has shown how the majority of the Member States, as well as the very wide majority of indigenous populations, have come together for the benefit of the indigenous peoples around the world," Mr. de Alba concluded.

The Declaration will now be forwarded to the General Assembly's September session.

Some experts have said that the creation of legal standards and rules through the adoption of an international declaration would ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. However some States have disagreed with the view that indigenous peoples should have the right to "self determination" and also other issues that have been proposed.

Currently, the UN estimates that there are some 370 million indigenous peoples living in different parts of the world.

## **UN agency puts forward eight-point plan to help Asia-Pacific benefit from global trade**

**29 June** - Developing countries of Asia and the Pacific need bold new domestic policies in order to benefit from free trade, and industrialized economies should back fairer trade rules giving poorer nations the chance to compete in the global marketplace, according to a new United Nations report that lays out an eight-point strategy for development.

The UN Development Programme's (UNDP) 2006 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, "*Trade on Human Terms: Transforming Trade for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific*," was released today in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh and is the first in a new annual series, the agency said in a press release.

"*Trade on Human Terms* comes at a critical time with only a few months left before the end-of-year deadline for the completion of the Doha Development Round. We are at the midpoint of the 10-year Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries and have less than a decade to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals," said UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis, referring to targets to slash a host of ills, such as extreme hunger and poverty, by 2015.

Among the findings included in the report is that Asia's opening to the global market has propelled record economic growth and reduced income poverty in much of the region. Its cheap, labour-intensive manufacturing and high-tech goods have made it the "factory of the world." East Asia's "miracle" economies, in particular, have used trade to boost exports and accelerate progress in other areas including education, health and gender equality.

Yet at the same time, trade has exacerbated inequalities, not only between countries but also within national borders. And some of the region's most open economies – particularly the East Asian success stories – are grappling with the challenge of "jobless growth," with job creation lagging far behind workforce expansion.

Further, the benefits of free trade have accrued more to highly-paid skilled workers than unskilled workers, while job opportunities and working conditions for women in textiles and clothing in the poorer countries are threatened by competition from China and the demise of global quotas.

"Asia and the Pacific have embraced globalization, but globalization cannot embrace the region's poor without determined

action on the part of governments,” said Hafiz A. Pasha, the Director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, who launched the report at a ceremony with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The report also highlights that some parts of Asia-Pacific – especially the 14 Least Developed Countries that include Cambodia – and the Pacific Island countries, have seen few tangible human-development benefits from trade and also face tough conditions for membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

“Due to the tyranny of averages, the relatively poor performance of Asia’s Least Developed Countries gets little attention,” said Anuradha K. Rajivan, who led the Colombo-based multinational team that prepared the Report for UNDP.

Key recommendations in the report call for investing in for national governments to make trade work for the poor are:

- Invest for competitiveness, including in education as well as in research and development, especially for agriculture and trade-related infrastructure
- Adopt strategic trade and industrial policies, by not opening up too early strategic industries and by introducing properly sequenced tariff barriers with a clear timeframe
- Refocus on agriculture, emphasizing investment in rural development, maintaining tariffs on food imports, and ensuring that global trade negotiations agree on special safeguard mechanisms
- Combat “jobless growth,” by recalibrating interest rates; phasing out fiscal incentives that artificially raise the return on capital and result in moves away from labour; and adopting labour-market policies to encourage flexibility and retraining
- Prepare a new tax regime, ensuring that new taxes are equitable and protect the poor; develop income taxes and curb evasion, while exploring promising new areas such as real estate, capital gains and value-added tax to compensate for revenue losses from trade liberalization
- Maintain stable exchange rates, providing realistic exchange-rate management that values a currency neither too high nor too low and maintains real stability
- Persist with multilateralism, for more durable human-development outcomes, building up slower but ultimately more productive relationships under the multilateral global trade regime rather than seeking highly imbalanced bilateral agreements with rich nations and
- Promote regional cooperation, strengthening regional trade agreements, pooling of foreign-exchange reserves and development of an Asian bond market.

## **Migrants sent \$173 billion to their home countries in 2005, UN meeting told**

**29 June** - The total amount of remittances sent home to developing countries by workers abroad reached \$173 billion in 2005, \$6 billion more than previously estimated, a senior World Bank official today told a United Nations symposium on migration taking place this week in Turin, Italy.

If remittances flowing through highly informal channels are taken into account, the total would likely reach around \$250 billion to developing countries, and \$350 billion worldwide, according to World Bank Senior Economist Dilip Ratha.

Speaking at a workshop on the second day of the International Symposium on Migration and Development, Mr. Ratha indicated that when these funds are relayed through banks or microfinance institutions in poor countries, they bolster bodies that are well suited to support finance for development, while providing a secure repository for recipients.

On a broader scale, the arrival of remittances strengthens national balance of payments and reduces the ratio of debt to exports, making developing countries more credit worthy, officials at the UN event said.

## UN needs funds to prevent thousands of Afghans from drifting back to armed groups



Saving former child soldiers

**29 June** - With tens of thousands of illiterate and unskilled former child soldiers in Afghanistan providing a tempting target for recruitment by one of the war-torn country's numerous armed groups, United Nations agencies need additional funds to continue training projects to reintegrate them as members of a peaceful society.

Currently, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) finances teaching and training programmes like sewing, weaving or carpentry, and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) supplies a monthly food aid ration, providing crucial nutritional support for the trainees and their families as well as a powerful incentive for them to attend class.

Without additional donations, WFP could well be forced to stop supporting this crucial project in the second half of 2006, leaving the former child soldiers still untrained and illiterate – and with little hope of a better life.

“Instead of self-sufficient tailors and carpenters and mechanics helping to boost the development of their communities and the nation as a whole, there will be thousands of poor, hungry and frustrated former child soldiers with families to feed and no legal means of doing so – the perfect recruiting pool for insurgents and other armed groups,” WFP officer Richard Lee said in Kabul, the Afghan capital.

“As long as there is a steady supply of new young recruits, the... conflict will go on,” he added, noting that unprecedented clashes between insurgents led by the ousted Taliban regime and Government and international troops as well as ambushes and suicide bombings have left hundreds dead in recent weeks.

In one example of the projects now threatened by lack of funding, 35 young men and boys sit in a dusty courtyard, all hunched over old-fashioned, manual sewing machines, carefully putting the finishing touches to flowing shirts.

It may look like a sweatshop but it's a makeshift training centre in a poor village in the northern province of Sari Pul, where demobilized ex-combatants are being taught that there is a possible – and profitable – future beyond the gun.

“During the Taliban time, I was forced to be a gunman,” says Abdul, one of the trainees. “Then I was demobilized. But I had nothing to do and no way to make any money.” Without any skills, he feared he would return to his violent previous life. But thanks to the joint UN project he and thousands like him have a brighter alternative.

“I am trying hard to learn the skills to be a good tailor because there is only one professional tailor in our village and he gets up to 150 Afghans (\$3) per item,” he adds. Abdul lives with the other six members of his family in a nearby house.

“If I make a success of sewing, I will earn a lot of money. Definitely enough to care for my family,” he says.

The training programme also ensures that the ex-combatants, as well as other war-affected boys and girls, attend basic literacy classes, usually for the first time in their lives.

“It was like I was blind before but now I can read and write,” Abdul says. He was never given the chance to go to school during Afghanistan's decades of brutal conflict. “I can also do addition and subtraction. It will help me so much because I will be able to write down what people owe me,” he adds.

## DR Congo: UN speeds up police training to provide security for elections



**29 June** - As the United Nations prepares for next month's elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the largest and most challenging it has ever helped organize, the UN mission there is training thousands of police to provide security for a vote that is meant to cement the vast country's transition from a disastrous civil war.

Just this week two companies of the National Congolese Police (PNC) completed their training under the auspices of the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC) in collaboration with the Japanese Cooperation Agency (JCA).

"These results did not come about by accident. They are the fruit of a number of factors - the willingness to cooperate and the partnership that has been strengthened over the previous months," Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Representative William Swing told the graduation ceremony in Kinshasa, the capital.

With the help of the international community, a total of over 46,000 police officers have been trained so far, 14,000 of them by MONUC. The majority has been trained by partners such as South Africa, Angola, France, the European Union and Japan.

According to Mr. Swing, the objective is to train a total of 50,000 officers before July 30, the start date of the elections.

This contributes little by little to changing the image of the police, which in the past has been "one of a collection of disparate elements from diverse backgrounds, sometimes without any understanding of security, or without any professional qualifications, and this diminished the ability of the force to operate at even the most basic levels of effectiveness," he said.

The six-year civil war cost 4 million lives through fighting and attendant hunger and disease, widely considered the most lethal conflict in the world since World War II. In his most recent report on the DRC last week, Mr. Annan said security still remains tenuous in several parts of the country, notably in the east.

The Congolese electorate of 25.5 million voters will be called upon, for the first time in 45 years, to cast their vote in some 50,000 polling stations for some 33 presidential, over 9,000 national legislative and over 10,000 provincial assembly candidates, in polls that will cost hundreds of million dollars.

In a related development, the UN refugee agency reported that the reintegration of thousands of refugees in DRC's Equateur province is surpassing expectations and could encourage others to return from the neighbouring Republic of Congo.

But the lack of funding for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) voluntary repatriation programme remains a significant problem that could ultimately affect returns planned for the second half of this year.

UNHCR is seeking \$75 million this year, but by June it had received only \$14.4 million. "When we look at available resources, we take pride in what we have been able to achieve with very little," the head of the UNHCR office in Dongo, Wquateur province, Vito Trani, said.

Dongo is located on the east bank of the Oubangi River, facing the Republic of Congo. Some 60,000 Congolese crossed the Oubangi and Congo rivers and sought sanctuary in riverside villages in the Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic (CAR) when the civil war flared in 1998.

## UN commission set to adopt safer food standards against disease-causing contaminants

**29 June** - A United Nations commission that is the highest international body on food standards is set next week to adopt a number of important proposals to improve protection of consumers from disease-causing organisms and substances, such as lead and cancer-causing toxins, by reducing their contamination of foods.



Some 500 delegates from about 100 countries and numerous nongovernmental organizations are expected to attend the 3-7 July meeting in Geneva of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a joint venture of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

If adopted, the proposals would set standards that would also facilitate international food trade by eliminating unjustified technical barriers.

Under consideration are issues that are important to developing and developed countries alike, such as:

- Maximum limit in fish of lead, which can cause a wide range of disorders, including anemia and hepatic and neurological disorders.
- Maximum limits in rice, marine bivalve molluscs and cephalopods of cadmium, which can cause kidney damage.
- Measures to prevent contamination of Brazil nuts with cancer-causing aflatoxins.
- Measures to prevent and reduce food and feed contamination with highly toxic and carcinogenic Dioxin and Dioxin-like PCB.

Some topics on the agenda are likely to cause intense debate such as the establishment of a Task Force on antibiotic resistance in bacteria, a potential threat to human health. The incorrect use of antibiotics in animals can lead to drug resistance in infections in humans who eat their meat. The Task Force would develop a risk assessment policy and strategies to reduce food safety risks associated with antibiotics use.

Codex Alimentarius standards form the basis of food legislation in many countries and are recognized as international benchmarks by one of the multilateral agreements of the UN World Trade Organization (WTO).