



United Nations and

ANGOLA



UN Office in Angola

The Security Council [authorized](#), on 15 October 1999, the establishment, for an initial period of six months until 15 April 2000, of the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA) to liaise with the political, military, police and other civilian authorities in that country. The Office was to explore effective measures for restoring peace, assist the Angolan people in the area of capacity building, humanitarian assistance, the promotion of human rights and coordinate other activities.

On 11 April 2000, in his [report](#) to the Security Council on developments in Angola, the Secretary-General recommended the extension of UNOA for another six months, until 15 October 2000. He said that the United Nations would continue its activities in Angola, which were focused on the provision of humanitarian relief and assistance in the area of capacity-building in the field of human rights. The Security Council, by its resolution [1294 \(2000\)](#) of 13 April 2000, endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation and extended the mandate of UNOA for a further six months. The Council reaffirmed its view that a continued United Nations presence in Angola could greatly contribute to the promotion of peace, national reconciliation, human rights and regional security.

In December 1999, the Secretary-General appointed [Mr. Ibrahim Gambari](#), a former Nigerian Ambassador to the United Nations, as his Special Adviser on Africa, with special focus on Angola among other issues. Mr. Gambari visited Angola from 16 to 22 May 2000 to discuss with the authorities the prospects for peace in Angola and the terms of reference of UNOA. During his stay, he met with Angolan President dos Santos as well as with several senior Government officials and members of political parties and civil society. It was agreed that further talks would be held and that the Special Adviser would pay further visits.

The Secretary-General further [reported](#) to the Security Council on the situation in Angola on 12 July. He again expressed his deep concern by the continuing fighting in the

country, its devastating effects on the population, and the absence of any meaningful attempt to reach a political settlement of the conflict.

On 31 July 2000, the Secretary-General [appointed](#) Mr. Mussagy Jeichande (Mozambique) as his Representative for Angola and Head of UNOA.

[Reporting](#) to the Security Council on 10 October 2000, the Secretary-General said that despite growing pressure, the fighting in Angola was continuing with devastating effects on the population. He was concerned that the situation appeared entering a new phase of political and military impasse and that it could worsen the security and humanitarian problems especially in the border regions of the neighbouring countries Namibia and Zambia and threaten further the peace and security of the subregion as a whole.

The Secretary-General noted that despite the absence of a real breakthrough and the frustrations over the slow progress towards a peaceful resolution of the situation in Angola, UNOA continued to play an essential role in providing assistance to the Government in the area of human rights capacity-building, as well as helping to mobilize humanitarian support from the international community. He recommended that the Council extend the mandate of the mission for a further six-month period. On 13 October, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNOA until 15 April 2001.

Background

The Government of Angola and the opposition force, the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), have been engaged in an intermittent yet devastating civil war since the country's independence in 1975. Over the years, the United Nations has been actively involved in efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Angola. United Nations efforts have included mediation by the Secretary-General and his envoys, the organization of peace talks, the imposition of a Security Council arms and oil embargo against UNITA forces, and the monitoring of national elections.

The Security Council has established four successive peacekeeping missions in Angola. The first United Nations peacekeeping operation there -- [UNAVEM I](#) -- was established in 1989. It was followed by [UNAVEM II](#), [UNAVEM III](#) and [MONUA](#). However, despite all efforts to restore peace and achieve national reconciliation, the situation began to deteriorate again in May 1998 when UNITA refused to proceed with the implementation of the peace agreements. Fighting resumed in many parts of the country in early December 1998.

In his [January 1999 report](#) to the Security Council, the Secretary-General concluded that the Angolan peace process had collapsed. The Government of Angola had informed the United Nations that it did not intend to support extension of the mandate of MONUA beyond 26 February 1999. The Secretary-General nonetheless indicated that the United Nations stood ready to play a political role, if requested, in order to assist all concerned in reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Humanitarian Aspects

The Angolan Government has continued to gradually re-establish its authority in areas formerly controlled by UNITA, including the latter's strongholds in the central highlands. As a result, some measure of stability has been achieved in a number of regions.

However, the humanitarian situation in the country remains precarious as a result of continued military activities, with widespread insecurity in several regions of Angola and disruptions in the rehabilitation of social and economic structures and services. Attacks on civilians and the lack of protection for relief staff are commonplace.

The war-affected civilian population is estimated to be 3.7 million people, of whom nearly 2.7 million are internally displaced persons. The humanitarian status of a large portion of the Angolan population, living in inaccessible areas, remains unknown. Angola's ranking in the human development index fell from 156 in 1998 to 160 in 1999. Forty-two per cent of children under 5 years of age are either severely or moderately underweight and, if they survive, are likely to develop health problems later.

The funding requirements of the 2000 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola is \$258 million.

- [For more information on humanitarian aspects](#)

Panel of Experts on Sanctions

With the aim to improve the effectiveness of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on UNITA, the Council in February 1999 supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that there should be studies "to trace violations in arms trafficking, oil supplies and the diamond trade, as well as the movement of UNITA funds". By resolution [1237 \(1999\)](#) of 7 May 1999, the Council established an independent Panel of Experts to undertake this task.

In all, Panel members visited nearly 30 countries, meeting with Government officials, members of the diplomatic community, non-governmental organizations, police and intelligence sources, industry associations and commercial companies, journalists and others. In January 1999, the Chairman of the Security Council Sanctions Committee which deals with Angola, accompanied by two members of the Panel, visited Angola and conducted interviews with former military officers and officials of UNITA. They provided details of UNITA's financial network, its use of diamonds as currency for purchasing weapons, and the role of weapons brokers and of mercenaries used for training soldiers.

[The final report](#) of the Panel, covering violations of the sanctions against UNITA and containing recommendations aimed at making those sanctions more effective, was

presented to the Security Council, which considered it in an open briefing on 15 March 2000.

On 18 April 2000, the Council adopted unanimously resolution [1295 \(2000\)](#) tightening existing sanctions against UNITA; establishing a new monitoring mechanism; and putting into place a process whereby the Council would, after taking into account the report of the new monitoring mechanism and information offered by countries named in the Panel's report consider appropriate action in relation to States it believed were continuing to violate the sanctions against UNITA.

In accordance with that resolution, the Secretary-General [appointed](#) five experts to serve on a monitoring mechanism, to collect additional relevant information and investigate relevant leads relating to any allegations of violations of the sanctions against UNITA. The Monitoring Mechanism on Angola sanctions submitted its [interim report](#) on 16 October 2000.

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