



I. Introduction

A. Responding to situations of conflict

1. Peacemaking

Appointing special mediators or special commissions to look into the sources of dispute and recommend practical solutions

5. The Secretary-General has continued to appoint special envoys and representatives in the countries concerned in an effort to prevent, mediate, contain and resolve conflicts. Through the United Nations peace-building missions, the Secretary-General's special envoys and representatives have encouraged and facilitated national dialogue and unity, respect for the democratic process and human rights. In June and December 2002, the peace-building mission in the Central African Republic organized meetings of political parties and parliamentarians aimed at encouraging national dialogue for promoting reconciliation and building confidence among the warring parties; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Angola facilitated the completion in 2002 of the peace process in Angola. The recent appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia is yet another example of the Organization's efforts to mediate, contain and resolve conflicts in the region.

6. The African Union has also appointed special envoys to follow on peace talks and to recommend practical steps for conflict resolution in the countries concerned. Alarmed by the number of conflicts ravaging their continent, African leaders met in February 2003 at the first extraordinary summit of heads of State of the African Union to reinvigorate their efforts to end conflicts in the region. The current plans for creating the Peace and Security Council in the African Union, modelled on the United Nations Security Council, reaffirm the resolve of African countries in the search for durable solutions to the various conflicts on the continent. Once created and operational, the Council, under the authority of the African Union, will have the power to mediate conflicts and could institute sanctions against its member States in cases of unconstitutional change of Government and gross violation of human rights, such as genocide.

7. In addition to political will and resolve, the existence of adequate African capacity for conflict resolution is critical for achieving a durable solution to the myriad conflicts besieging the continent. It is important that the international community support and nurture African initiatives for peace and security. In this regard, the dynamic partnership emerging between the African Union and the European Union in promoting peace and stability in Africa is encouraging. The possibility of the European Union-supported fund for peacekeeping operations, conducted under the authority of the African Union, could enhance the latter's capacity effectively to play its role in the peace, security and stability of Africa. The United Nations will continue to support African efforts towards peace, security and stability in the region.

Stopping the proliferation of arms, reducing expenditure on arms and attaining a zero-growth budget for military expenditure

8. In an effort to encourage African States to contribute information to the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat convened in 2002 two

of peacekeeping missions in Africa with a view to extracting lessons learned for future operations.

14. The United Nations remains committed to providing support for the implementation of ceasefire agreements and facilitating an environment conducive to the promotion of national reconciliation. Following the signing of a ceasefire agreement in December 2002 between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the rebel forces, in January 2003 the Secretary-General, in response to a request from the facilitator of the peace agreement, dispatched a four-person team to

development, including the operationalization process of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. In May 2003 UNDP signed with the Union a \$6.4 million project to support the implementation of the Peace and Security Agenda of the Union. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, among other United Nations system organizations, has also been actively supporting the regional and subregional initiatives, including the preparation of a draft humanitarian protocol for inclusion in the IGAD-initiated peace talks for the Sudan.

18. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) helped to establish a Women's Resource Centre for women delegates attending the IGAD-sponsored Somali peace process. The Centre in Somalia is used for consultations on women-specific proposals within the larger programme of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration committee. In collaboration with MONUC and the Office of the Facilitator of the Intercongolese Dialogue and in the framework of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), UNIFEM has supported the participation of Congolese peace talks by training women experts and providing them with substantive documents and has facilitated their travel to participate in the Dialogue. Women participants in the peace process strongly advocated for the inclusion of women's rights and gender perspectives in the transitional Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

19. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been working with African regional economic communities towards mainstreaming human rights and humanitarian law in their peace-building and peacekeeping initiatives. For example, the Yaounde Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, in collaboration with ECCAS and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa are involved in projects aimed at fostering conflict prevention and resolution of disputes. However, the capacity of the regional organizations to take over the Centre's initiative is weak. **Continued dialogue with the regional economic communities needs to be encouraged.**

Protecting civilians in situations of conflict

20. The United Nations peacekeeping operations also involve a wide range of civilian elements, including the protection of civilians in situations of conflict. UNAMSIL has a human rights section with a monitoring and reporting team. Similarly, the United Nations country team in Liberia, through the deployment of human rights officers, reports and monitors all forms of abuses in camps hosting internally displaced persons. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights at a joint seminar in April 2003 adopted a memorandum of understanding, aimed at further strengthening the monitoring of the implementation of the 1969 refugee convention of the then Organization of African Unity.

21. In line with the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report on the necessity to pay special attention to the needs of children in armed conflict, the Security Council in March 2003 adopted the aide-memoire on the protection of civilians, including children, from the effects of armed conflict. The aide-memoire

several countries at war, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has successfully negotiated "days of tranquillity", during which warring parties have suspended hostilities to allow UNICEF and its partners safe access to immunize children. National Immunization Days and other innovative approaches have proved to be a catalyst in bringing together humanitarian, political and military actors to provide services for children.

Addressing refugees security issues

22. The Secretary-General, in his 1998 report on the causes of conflict in Africa, underscored the need to ensure that all refugees and internally displaced persons are

Providing peace-friendly structural adjustment programmes

29. The Secretary-General's report underscores the importance of relaxing strict conditionality imposed by international lending institutions on the countries experiencing a delicate political transition. In this regard, the Secretary-General continues to engage in constructive dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is using the staff-monitored programme as a framework for the resumption of its support to Guinea-Bissau to allow the Government to continue with its structural adjustment and economic reforms at a

the Office is supporting the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions and truth and reconciliation processes. For example, it is providing technical assistance, including expertise in fund-raising and management, to the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has the mandate to respond, among other things, to the needs of victims and prevent a repetition of human rights violations suffered during the Sierra Leone conflict. UNIFEM is also assisting in building the capacity of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission for witness protection in cases of gender-specific human rights violations during the decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone.

Enhancing administrative capacity

34. Various United Nations system organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions, are assisting African countries in strengthening their administrative capacity for formulating and adopting a comprehensive national strategy for good governance in the area of public sector reform, including the financial sector, as well as measures aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability. IMF has also set up African Regional Technical Assistance Centres to help build technical capacity for economic and financial management. These are currently operational in Dar es Salaam, serving six countries in East Africa, and in Mali, to serve 10 francophone countries in West Africa.

35. In response to “good governance” as one of the critical preconditions for the implementation of the goals and objectives of NEPAD, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has been established, voluntarily acceded to by African countries for self-monitoring and peer learning. As of May 2003, 15 African countries had acceded to APRM, which has the objective of promoting the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability and sustainable growth and development in the region. This is an encouraging development, in that

37. In order to speed up restructuring and reform processes in Africa, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) introduced a subregional approach to the work of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry on the formulation of a subregional programme to introduce a value-chain approach to industrialization in Africa and, in this context, the first subregional meeting took place in October 2002 with the objective of translating the NEPAD objectives into achieving sustainable economic and industrial growth. Furthermore, UNIDO-supported integrated programmes for enterprise development were implemented in 14 African countries in 2002, for a total of about \$90 million, including support for investment and technology promotion as well as small and microenterprise development. In March 2003 UNIDO initiated a post-conflict small and microenterprise support programme for industrial development and poverty alleviation in Sierra Leone.

Emphasizing social development

38. The Secretary-General's report underscores the need for focusing budgetary allocation decisions on basic human needs and poverty reduction. In their efforts to address poverty reduction, many African countries are using the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) as instruments for designing poverty reduction interventions. As of July 2003, 19 African countries had completed full PRSPs and a further 10 interim PRSPs, which are a step in the preparation of their full PRSPs. The World Bank, UNDP and other United Nations system organizations are assisting the African countries in formulating such PRSPs in line with their national priorities. The World Bank's project portfolios in post-conflict African countries include social protection and social development projects, for which its support in 2002 amounted to \$400 million.

39. The World Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, re-emphasized an integrated approach for sustainable development, including social development, economic development and environmental protection. The Summit deliberations paid much attention to Africa's problems in the context of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the Summit, underscores the need to take an integrated approach to sustainable development through the formulation of national sustainable development strategies, which could be built on the PRSPs. Only three African countries have to date

countries, has helped formulate national employment and poverty reduction policies, mainstream employment concerns in national policies, support pilot projects and build capacity of the social partners.

41. Water and sanitation are critical in poverty eradication and, in this regard, the Africa-European Union partnership on water and sanitation was signed at the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002. The implementation of projects under the proposed European Water Fund for Africa could make a positive contribution to the efforts of African countries in poverty reduction. The Economic Partnership Agreements concluded between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries, on which negotiations started in September 2002, is yet another promising initiative aiming to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in the ACP group of countries.

42. The challenges of poverty reduction in Africa, especially in conflict and post-conflict countries, are enormous. While economic and political reforms, including good governance, sound social and economic policies, domestic resource mobilization and allocation are important for poverty reduction, they are not sufficient for advancing sustained economic growth, which is an important prerequisite for poverty reduction.

43. **Increased and sustained aid to African countries well above the existing**

46. The World Bank's sector-wide programmes in the education and health sectors,

51. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, established in January 2002, is now operational, though grossly underfunded. Pledges to the Fund as at June 2003 stood at \$4.7 billion, compared to the estimated global requirements of about \$10.5 billion annually for effective prevention, treatment, care and support programmes. The need for increased contributions by developed countries to the

women's parity and equality in the political decision-making process. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees supported the process for the elaboration of the recently adopted African Union protocol on the rights of African women. All the programmes supported by the Office at the national and regional levels have a gender dimension and the Office, in collaboration with UNIFEM and other agencies, assists African countries in formulating and adopting policies and programmes for the elimination of discrimination against women in their respective countries.

Restructuring international aid

57. Official development assistance (ODA) to Africa over the last two years has shown some improvement, after a decline in the latter part of the 1990s, from \$16.4 billion in 2000 to \$17.7 billion in 2001 and to about \$18.6 billion in 2002. The urgency for increased development assistance for poor countries, particularly those in Africa, echoed at the recent international conferences, including, among others, the Millennium Summit (2000), the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (2001) and the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002), has, in no small way, rekindled the renewed commitment of donors to assist poor countries in tackling some of the critical dc(9.4(e)-7.3(ve)-7.3(1)9pm8(S)m)9.7f

takes up approximately 25 per cent of ODA, remains tied, which is a major source of concern for recipient countries.

61. While African countries have benefited from recent efforts in ODA increases, in view of the enormity of the challenges facing African countries, particularly those in conflict and post-conflict situations, the current levels of ODA remain inadequate for tackling the massive development challenges confronting the region. **Donor**

are assisting African countries in this regard. UNIDO, through its regional programme on technology management for sub-Saharan Africa, is facilitating trade participation of selected ECOWAS countries through enhancement of standards, the

which the international community, including the United Nations, should concentrate its efforts for African development. The existing coordination and programming mechanisms at the United Nations level include: the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for enhancing support at the country level; the regional consultative meetings of the United Nations system organizations working in Africa at the regional level, chaired by the Economic Commission for Africa; and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board at the global level. The United Nations harmonization work is being coordinated by the United Nations Development Group.

71. An important development with regard to harmonizing bilateral and multilateral (multilateral development banks) initiatives was the Rome Declaration on Harmonization, adopted at a meeting of major multilateral and bilateral institutions held in Rome in February 2003. The Declaration provides for the harmonization of operational policies, procedures and practices of multilateral and bilateral organizations with those of partner country systems to improve the effectiveness of development assistance, thereby contributing to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

72. In view of the fact that NEPAD has been adopted by the international community as a framework for African development, bilateral and multilateral efforts should support the African initiative. The United Nations welcomes international initiatives, such as the G-8 Action Plan for Africa and the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, in support of NEPAD.

III. Conclusion and recommendations on the future follow-up modality

73. The foregoing review shows that further progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations since the consideration of the previous progress report in 2002. The progress, however, has been slow and uneven. The efforts of African countries and the international community need to be accelerated in order to implement the various recommendations in a timely manner.

74. A number of problems and challenges have constrained the effective and timely implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report. They include the lack of political will, persistent conflicts, weak governance to consolidate the reform agenda, weak human and institutional capacity for economic management and administration in general and in dealing with the much-needed reform programmes in particular and the limited financial resources, including from external sources, to tackle the enormous development challenges, particularly reconstruction and rehabilitation in post-conflict countries.

75. In view of the multiplicity of existing reporting frameworks in which the United Nations system addresses the issues already raised in the Secretary-General's report and the numerous forums in which they are discussed, appraised and reviewed

on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa be discontinued. Instead, the follow-up and reporting on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-