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**New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in
implementation and international support: causes of**

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In accordance with resolution 61/230, the report also includes several proposals for United Nations actions in support of the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010. The report concludes that after a decade of achievements and challenges, there is a strong case for a full review of commitments made, progress achieved and lessons learned in preventing conflict and promoting peace and development in Africa, and proposes a comprehensive review of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report.

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arms, co-deploy multinational peacekeeping forces with regional and subregional forces and strengthen Africa's own capacity for peacekeeping. Some of these measures have been implemented and have contributed significantly to reducing the number and intensity of conflicts in Africa.

7. In fact, the improved effectiveness and readiness of the international community, including African countries themselves, to respond to conflict through peacekeeping has been a major factor in containing violent conflict. There are currently 13 United Nations peacekeeping operations, special political missions and

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well as providing capacity and institutional support to the new Great Lakes Conference secretariat, which has just been set up in Bujumbura.

11. The United Nations has also addressed the need to adapt its structure and methodologies to the new realities. The Peacebuilding Commission has been established to support post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in a more sustained, coherent and effective manner. The Commission is the only major body including representatives of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic

national levels. To improve governance, African leaders established the African Peer Review Mechanism, a voluntary self-monitoring and assessment tool open to all members of the African Union. So far, 26 member States of the African Union have acceded to the Mechanism and 5 countries have already completed the assessment process, which entails conformity to principles, codes and standards in the basic declarations of NEPAD on democracy, political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance and socio-economic development.

23. The last 10 years have also witnessed a gradual but profound shift in global norms with respect to the use of force and violence in inter-State relations. The rule of law has increasingly become the centrepiece of all policymaking processes. African countries are committed to respecting and promoting human rights, protecting civilians in times of conflict and upholding international law in their relations. Twenty-nine African countries are now parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and its Prosecutor has opened investigations in several African countries. The Special Court for Sierra Leone initiated proceedings against the former President of Liberia, and the African Union has made it clear that it will not tolerate grave violations of international humanitarian law.

24. Yet for all of this progress, there are still serious challenges ahead. Extreme poverty, together with lack of access to basic education, health care and adequate nutrition, continues to prevent millions of talented, promising young people in Africa from fulfilling their potential. At least 200 million people on the continent go hungry every day and agricultural production will have to be substantially increased to meet their needs. Even though civil society organizations have proved to be key partners in improving peace and development in the continent, the acute lack of capacity and funding prevents their further engagement and participation in local, national, regional and pan-African decision-making processes. Moreover, despite considerable advances, more support of women's participation and leadership in peace negotiations and post-conflict peacebuilding is needed.

II. Recent developments in addressing the causes of conflict

25. During the 2006-2007 reporting period, agencies of the United Nations system continued to implement relevant recommendations contained in my 1998 report. The United Nations system has increasingly adapted its programmes and priorities to the new African context, supporting Governments, regional and subregional organizations and civil society in facing existing and emerging challenges in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, economic development, humanitarian assistance and capacity-building. Individual agencies and the United Nations system as a whole are redefining their partnership with Africa in light of the profound transformations that the continent and its institutions have experienced over the past few years, going beyond development and crisis assistance by opening up a broader cooperation that involves issues of joint political concern and interest.

A. Conflict prevention, peacemaking and humanitarian affairs

1. Mediation and prevention

26. Third-party mediation has proved to be one of the most important means at the disposal of the United Nations to prevent and resolve deadly conflicts around the world. The Department of Political Affairs has now established the Mediation Support Unit to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to support mediation and good offices. The initiative stems from the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), which recognized the important role of my good offices, including in the mediation of disputes. In October 2006, the Unit held a seminar in Cape Town, South Africa, in partnership with the Centre for Conflict Resolution and the African Union, in which mediators were invited to reflect on their experiences and identify key aspects of mediation support. The Unit and other agencies have noted the importance of promoting inclusiveness as a key concept in resolving conflict, both substantially in the structures of government, and procedurally in peace negotiation processes. The Unit launched the United Nations Peacemaker website in October 2006, containing a database of peace agreements and a range of other tools for peacemaking professionals. Efforts are under way to establish a standby team of mediation experts who will be on call to assist in peacemaking efforts around the world.

27. The special envoys I dispatched to various countries continued to offer timely and discreet facilitation to prevent tensions from deteriorating into open conflict. For example, elections in Gambia took place peacefully in September 2006, despite an initial period of tense and polarized political discourse. Many actors in the country credited part of this success to the work of my special envoy for the Gambia, who acted as a mediator and facilitator before, during and after the elections.

2. Peace negotiations

28. In August 2006, the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) signed a cessation of hostilities agreement in Juba, southern Sudan. The Unitelt.78 T(ct.)e peac

3. Humanitarian coordination

30. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs continued to facilitate regional humanitarian coordination using the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to provide overall policy and technical guidance to ad hoc working groups, United Nations country teams and other partners. The Office has undertaken situation analysis within the Mano River Union region and in Côte d'Ivoire and enhanced information sharing with United Nations country teams from the region. Its work in the Mano River region is aimed at consolidating peace and security, promoting early warning measures, addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and reinforcing environmental restoration and protection in the region. Humanitarian efforts increasingly provide the United Nations system with an early indication of potential crises.

B. Peacekeeping

1. Côte d'Ivoire

5. Darfur (Sudan)

39. The United Nations has designed two phases of support for the African Union, the light and heavy support packages. The light support package, which consists of police and military advisory personnel, material and equipment for the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), has for the most part been delivered. Since 28 December 2006, the United Nations has deployed military personnel, police advisers and civilian staff to El Fasher, Nyala and other parts of Darfur. Completion of the first phase depends on contributions from Member States to fill outstanding requirements for staff officers and armoured personnel carriers. Major challenges to the full implementation of the light support package include the lack of security and the inadequate infrastructure within Darfur and the AMIS camps.

40. The implementation of the second phase, the heavy support package, which will include a range of force enablers, three formed police units, civilian personnel and mission support, commenced on 16 April 2007 with the agreement of the Government of the Sudan to the United Nations-African Union proposals and authorization of the heavy support package by the Security Council, as outlined in my report of 23 February 2007 (S/2007/104). On 12 June 2007, the Government agreed to support unconditionally the deployment of a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, following talks in Addis Ababa to clarify the mandate, structure, components and tasks of the force. The United Nations and the African Union have pledged to seek African troops first, and during its visit to Khartoum, the Security Council noted that it would seek funding for the operation from the United Nations peacekeeping budget.

6. Democratic Republic of the Congo

41. Following the successful presidential, National Assembly and Provincial Assembly elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the National Assembly was installed on 22 September 2006. President Joseph Kabila was inaugurated on 6 December 2006, bringing the transition process envisaged by the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement of 2002 to a formal conclusion. Significant progress has been made in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups, especially in the Ituri region, where 4,500 combatants will benefit from the programme. The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has continued its work in building the capacity of the Congolese national police, training over 43,000 police officers so as to

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mobilization of sustained and adequate international support, including funding and

3. Children and youth

48. In 1996, the report by Graça Machel on the impact of armed conflict on children (A/51/306) proposed comprehensive actions to be taken by the international community to improve the protection and care of children affected by armed conflict. Much progress has been made in the last 10 years, including the Optional Protocols (2000), demobilization and reintegration programmes for children and the prosecution of perpetrators by international tribunals. My Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have co-convened a strategic review of the Machel report, the results of which will be submitted to the General Assembly in October 2007.

49. During 2006, UNICEF supported the implementation of a mechanism to collect reliable information on the recruitment and use of child198-/ld19.2Jobiliza

practitioners from 23 African countries and provided an opportunity for them to share experiences.

9. Risks to refugee security

64. By the end of 2006, Africa had some 2.4 million refugees and 6.8 million internally displaced persons. UNHCR continued to protect and assist them, despite difficulties arising from financial, logistical and operational constraints. In September 2006, UNHCR disseminated operational guidelines on maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum to field locations.

65. The consolidation of peace in several African countries allowed UNHCR to make significant progress in its search for durable solutions for a number of protracted displacement situations, especially in the case of refugees from Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and southern Sudan and for internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Liberia. The establishment of the joint plan for returnees between the Government of the Sudan and UNMIS has facilitated the safe and voluntary return of 20,000 internally displaced persons between the north and the south of the country.

66. Key political developments including the successful completion of elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the peace talks initiated between the Government of Uganda and LRA and the ceasefire agreement in Burundi between the Forces nationales de libération and the Government encouraged the return of thousands of displaced people. Overall, around 256,000 Burundians have returned home since the beginning of repatriation operations in 2002, some 45,000 of them during the past year. The reconciliation process in Togo also improved prospects for the repatriation of refugees, many of whom returned spontaneously in 2006.

67. However, in some parts of the continent instability worsened, leading to more displacement, particularly in the Central African Republic, Chad, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. With over half a million refugees and internally displaced persons, the Darfur region of the Sudan continued to pose one of the biggest challenges for the United Nations system. In 2006, UNHCR actively engaged the Government of Chad to try to locate refugee camps farther from the Sudanese border, where military activity had been reported. The Office also supported the implementation of a memorandum of understanding on security to increase the capacity of the Chadian forces to provide security in and around refugee settlements.

D. Capacity-building in Africa

68. Over the last 10 years, capacity-building efforts and cooperation between the United Nations and African regional organizations have grown in depth and breadth. This process culminated in the signature of the declaration on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in November 2006 in Addis Ababa. In building on previous agreements, the declaration provides a holistic structure for United Nations system-wide support for regional and subregional capacity-building efforts in a number of areas including peace, security and crime prevention; institution-building, political and electoral matters; governance, human rights and the rule of law; peacebuilding; humanitarian response, recovery and food security; social, cultural and health issues; and the environment. Moreover, the United Nations is preparing a 10-year capacity-building programme in support of the African Union in accordance with the recommendations of the 2005 Summit Outcome.

69. During the reporting period, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and others collaborated with and supported capacity-building of the African Union in a variety of ways including by providing training and promoting staff exchanges, establishing dedicated support capacities and providing technical and financial assistance to build institutional capacity and expedite institutional transformation.

established a Peacebuilding Commission, a Human Rights Council and other bodies to fill some gaps in post-conflict situations; NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism have been established as a commitment of African countries themselves; African countries have begun to establish national early warning and conflict resolution mechanisms; and non-governmental organizations and the public have increasingly played a significant role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacemaking in the continent.

76. In the last decade, the number of development partners involved in peace and development efforts in Africa has increased. No one will today deny the important role of civil society and grass-roots organizations in preventing violent conflict and dealing with the scars of war. Few would envisage a sound, long-term economic recovery process without the involvement of the private sector, and the important role of the media in fostering peace and understanding is also widely recognized.

77. However, the readiness of African countries and institutions to resolve their own peace, security and development challenges should not prevent the international community from providing the necessary support to these efforts. Indeed, more action is needed both to strengthen and support Africa's own efforts to bring peace to the continent and to tackle the wider global sources of armed conflict. African institutions are working hard to develop their capacity to anticipate, prevent and respond to crises, but sustained attention and investment from the United Nations and the international community at large will be necessary in support of such efforts, bearing in mind that the Security Council still bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

78. In 1998 I endeavoured to identify the causes of conflict and to recommend means of promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. It is time to undertake a systematic, comprehensive and joint review of the commitments made, action taken, progress achieved and lessons learned in preventing conflict and promoting peace and development in Africa. The review would consider the continued relevance of the 1998 recommendations and the array of mandates and resolutions on Africa, and whether it would be useful to have more systematic arrangements for coordinating action, monitoring progress and sharing lessons learned. None of this should, of course, imply a pause in implementing existing commitments or undertaking new commitments where these are appropriate.

79. Appropriate and adequate institutional arrangements within the United Nations will hold the key to the success of our efforts in support of Africa. I intend to revamp these efforts by establishing greater institutional coherence among the main Secretariat entities dealing with issues that concern Africa, as well as establishing stronger system-wide organizational arrangements to ensure full implementation of activities in favour of Africa. As part of this approach I will seek to formulate strategic actions for the United Nations and the international community in support of achieving sustainable development in a conflict-free Africa.