



The report concludes that despite a decade of achievements and challenges, the international community must press forward with increased dedication, together with African regional organizations, to assure lasting peace and development in the face of growing global challenges.

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sexual violence against women in armed conflict, children in armed conflict and the role of regional organizations such as the African Union in addressing armed conflict.

A. Prevention and mediation

7. In recognition of the benefits of conflict prevention in both human and financial terms, I have proposed a major strengthening of capacity to ensure that the

continental mediations can be employed to good effect and should be strengthened in the next phase of the African Union-United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme.

B. Peacekeeping

1. Western Sahara

13. My Personal Envoy held consultations with the representatives of the Government of Morocco and the Frente Polisario in January 2008 and again in March. Progress continues to be made on mine clearance and enhanced confidence-building measures that may allow family visits to take place both by land and air. Notwithstanding the parties' reiteration of their commitments to show political will and negotiate in good faith, there has been little progress on the resolution of political differences which hamper economic development in the region and which continue to take a deep human toll especially on those who have lived in isolation and poverty in the camps for decades.

2. Côte d'Ivoire

14. Troops from the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) continue to conduct patrols throughout the country.

number of mobile and foot patrols in high crime areas. UNMIL also assisted the national Government with the development of a national strategy and operational

Sudan Liberation Movement. Deployment of UNAMID personnel and equipment has taken place only gradually during the first half of 2008.

23. On 30 June 2008, the Chairperson of the African Union and the Secretary-General appointed a new joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur. Nevertheless, throughout July the security situation across Darfur worsened, including attacks on a UNAMID patrol that resulted in the deaths of seven peacekeepers and injuries to more than 20 others.

7. Chad and the Central African Republic

24. During the year, lengthy negotiations with the Government of Chad led to agreement on a three-pronged approach to improving the security situation. Specifically, the Government of Chad agreed on a multidimensional presence that would entail a United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) to provide security and protection of civilians and to contribute to the monitoring, promotion and protection of human rights. The Government also agreed to the establishment of a Chadian police force to maintain law and order in refugee camps and authorized a European force to protect civilians and United Nations personnel and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. By June 2008, nearly 600 United Nations personnel and some 3,000 European Union Force (EUFOR) personnel had been deployed.

25. Numerous armed border engagements occurred in January 2008 and rebel forces attacked the capital of Chad in early February 2008. The African Union Peace and Security Council condemned the unconstitutional attempt to take power in Chad and mandated the Presidents of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and of the Congo to seek a solution to the crisis in consultation with the Chadian parties. Moreover, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) convened an extraordinary summit on the situation in March 2008 and pledged to provide emergency assistance to Chad.

26. Despite the peace efforts of the international community and of regional and subregional organizations, the Security Council mission that visited MINURCAT and a refugee camp in June 2008 found the situation dire and noted the severe threat of attack from armed groups.

27. The situation in Chad and the Central African Republic illustrates the complexity and seriousness of the challenges of peace and security facing parts of Africa. Greater political will from Governments in the region and from the international community, together with urgent provision of troops and logistical support for UNAMID and MINURCAT, will be critical to achieving human security and stability in this troubled region.

8. Somalia

28. In June 2008, the Transitional Federal Government and the opposition Alliance for the Reliberation of Somalia assented, under the Djibouti Agreement, to end their conflict and called on the United Nations to deploy an international stabilization force to the country within 120 days. Subsequent attacks by other armed groups followed the agreement, however, and some groups and opposition members continue to be vehemently opposed to the pact.

29. As of July 2008, the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) consisted of one Burundian and two Ugandan battalions, totalling 2,650 troops out of an authorized 8,000 troops. On 16 July 2008, Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein appealed to the international community for a rapid deployment of United Nations peacekeepers in Somalia.

30. The Djibouti Agreement marks an important step towards achieving peace and stability for Somalia. Recent efforts have been undertaken by international partners, under the auspices of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), to establish a security sector framework. A start-up package of \$14 million has been made available to help with immediate needs of the Transitional Federal Government.

C. Peacebuilding

31. In December 2005, in concurrent resolutions, the General Assembly and the Security Council established the peacebuilding architecture, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office to respond to the growing global demand for sustained support to countries emerging from conflict. The Peacebuilding Fund is expected to establish a crucial bridge between conflict and recovery in cases when other funding mechanisms may not yet be available.

32. With an initial funding target of \$250 million, the Peacebuilding Fund focuses on stabilizing and strengthening Government institutions, thereby enhancing their capacity to sustain the peace process and to address their most immediate national needs as they emerge from conflicts. Support is provided to eligible countries through three different funding windows: (a) window I, countries before the Peacebuilding Commission; (b) window II, countries specifically designated by the Secretary-General; and (c) window III, emergency facilities managed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support for urgent and discrete peacebuilding activities.

33. Since 2006, four countries, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic, have become eligible for funding under window I. In 2008, several other countries became eligible for funding under windows II and III, including the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Liberia and Kenya.

1. Burundi

34. An agreed Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi was promulgated in June 2007. The priority plan for peacebuilding developed by the Government of Burundi with the support of the United Nations served as the basis for an allocation of \$35 million from the Peacebuilding Fund. The priority plan identified the following key areas: (a) good governance; (b) strengthening the rule of law within security forces; (c) strengthening justice, promotion of human rights, reconciliation and the fight against impunity; and (d) the land issue, particularly in the context of the reintegration of affected populations and community-based recovery aimed especially at women, youth and affected populations.¹

¹ See S/2008/330.

35. Despite positive political trends over a number of years and the active involvement of the international community through the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), the Peacebuilding Commission and the African Union since the successful holding of elections in 2005, the overall political, security and humanitarian situation in Burundi remained difficult during the period under review.

2. Sierra Leone

36. The Government of Sierra Leone has made good progress in implementing its agenda for peace consolidation and economic recovery since the holding of legislative and presidential elections in 2007.

37. The United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), together with bilateral donors, continued to strengthen and train the police and armed forces. UNIOSIL also provided technical assistance to the National Electoral Commission for the local council elections that were successfully and peacefully held on 5 July

employment initiatives and by extending operational activities to fight the growing problem of international drug trafficking.

4. Central African Republic

43. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (BONUCA) has assisted the Government of the Central African Republic in its efforts to consolidate democracy and national institutions since 2000. In January 2008, the Central African Republic became eligible to receive support through the Peacebuilding Fund, which has focused on three priority areas: security sector reform, promotion of good governance and the rule of law and revitalization of communities affected by conflicts.

III. Strengthening the response of

48. UNHCR also made available two staff members, together with information systems equipment, to support the African Union Commission's Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons. UNHCR is providing the services of a consultant and one administrative support person for the preparation of the African Union Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which is to take place in November 2008.

49. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the African Union's Gender Division have entered into partnership to work on three areas: capacity-building for human rights programming, gender mainstreaming and monitoring within the African Union; strengthening women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict situations; and mobilizing women's effective participation through the African Union Economic and Social Council and the Pan-African Parliament. Since January 2008, a UNIFEM representative has been appointed to the African Union to work with on policy issues related to gender equality and women's rights.

50. The NEPAD Support Section of the Economic Commission for Africa created a NEPAD and Regional Integration Division to enhance United Nations system support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The Economic Commission for Africa participates actively in African Union summits and provides technical advice and inputs, particularly in the discussions on the integration of NEPAD into African Union structures and processes. The Regional Consultation Mechanism, established to enhance coordination in relation with the African Union's NEPAD programme, decided in November 2007 to move towards more comprehensive alignment with the priorities of the African Union Commission.

51. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and international partners, supported the African Union in its review and costing of its implementation plan of HIV and AIDS for 2007-2010. A joint financial agreement is being developed to support the plan. UNAIDS is also engaged in providing technical support for incorporating the issue of AIDS into the African Union peace and security architecture. In order to facilitate implementation of the African Union HIV and AIDS plan and to improve follow-up with regional economic communities, UNAIDS strengthened the African Union Commission for Social Affairs through the secondment of a senior staff member for two years and the provision of funds for recruiting another project officer.

52. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) assists the Education Department of the African Union Commission and the regional economic commissions through capacity-building. In this regard, UNESCO seconded a senior education specialist to the African Union to assist in managing the implementation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) Plan of Action.

53. In support of the African Union-United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided institutional support to the Department of Social Affairs, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, Department of Peace and Security and Directorate of Women, Gender and Development of the Commission of the African Union through secondment of staff at the substantive, administrative, financial and logistical levels.

Procurement of supplies and equipment was effected to enable smooth running of African Union and NEPAD bureaux. The approximate total cost of seconded staff, supplies and equipment and full time dedicated liaison staff amounted to \$1 million as at end of March 2008. UNICEF expects to provide between \$3 to \$4 million to support the African Union in 2008.

54. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued to provide direct and indirect technical assistance to strengthen both the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union Commission, including provision of senior agricultural advisers, Junior Professional Officers and short-term consultants to help advance the agenda of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. FAO assisted by convening implementation-related meetings, supporting resource mobilization and supporting the regional economic communities.

55. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat continued to maintain active collaboration with the African Union Commission in the area of peace, security and disarmament. The Commission sought the views of the Regional Centre on matters relating to the establishment and functioning of the African Union Small Arms Unit and related disarmament matters. The Centre participated in three expert workshops organized by the African Union on the implementation of its border programme.

56. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations established the African Union Peacekeeping Support Team to ensure efficient and sustained assistance to the African Union in the area of peacekeeping. The team is a mechanism dedicated to providing assistance to the African Union in the preparation for and deployment of an African standby force and in building its long-term institutional capacity to plan, deploy and manage complex multidimensional peacekeeping operations.

57. The Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat continued to contribute to the strengthening of cooperation with the African Union and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), ECCAS and the Economic and Monetary Community of West Africa (CEMAC) in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, post-conflict peacebuilding and electoral assistance matters. The Department is developing a training programme on dialogue and mediation.

2. Cooperation with subregional organizations

58. The eighth meeting of the regional consultation mechanism, which coordinates United Nations system support to NEPAD and the Commission of the African Union, expanded its focus to include African subregional organizations within its purview. Several United Nations system agencies and departments reported during the year on their collaboration with subregional organizations. The Economic Commission of Africa's subregional offices have been working to bring United Nations agencies together in cooperative support of the African Union/NEPAD at the subregional level through engagement in multi-agency discussions.

59. In the past year the Regional Centre for Disarmament and Peace in Africa of the Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued its collaboration with ECOWAS on issues such as the establishment of a mechanism and measures to prevent illicit arms brokering activities in the subregion; the establishment of the subregional data

base and register on small arms and light weapons and peace operations; and the

training, equipment and institutional strengthening of judicial systems will be sought from the international community.

72. The Regional Centre on Small Arms is an intergovernmental organization working to implement the legally binding Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, which was signed by Member States on 21 June 2004. The Centre works in the areas of harmonization of legislation, capacity-building of law enforcement, regional coordination and public awareness.

73. The Centre's "culture of peace" activities include an annual anniversary celebration of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (2006) which preceded the adoption of the Nairobi Protocol. The Centre organized a school essay contest in Uganda as a pilot project and prepared documentaries, drama presentations, and other communications and advocacy events to strengthen the

internationally recognized standards of freedom of expression, peace and tolerance;
and assisting the media in covering elections.

C. Employment generation in post-conf

IV. Conclusion

83. Africa, supported by regional, subregional and international organizations, has made strong and sustained efforts over the past decade to promote peace, deepen commitment to democratic processes and good governance and address critical factors such as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Elements of the African Union's peace and security architecture, such as the Peace and Security Council and the Panel of the Wise, have become operational and are showing concrete results both on their own and in conjunction with United Nations efforts.

84. Cooperative efforts in mediation, as in Kenya, and in peacekeeping, as in Darfur, are growing and United Nations agencies have improved collaboration with African regional and subregional organizations in advance of a detailed articulation of the next and broader phase of the African Union-United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme.

85. Furthermore, in support of the goal of African Heads of State of achieving a completely "conflict-free Africa" at the earliest possible time, United Nations agencies have begun to provide direct staff and, in some cases, logistical and financial support, to advance the work of the African Union in pursuit of that goal. In the present report, I draw particular attention to the critical work that an Inter-Agency Task Force has been doing to develop comprehensive operational guidelines for national efforts on post-conflict employment generation.

86. The Peacebuilding Commission is already playing a significant role and has also highlighted the critical aspect of youth unemployment in both Burundi and Sierra Leone, recognizing that the extremely large number of unemployed young people must be given new hope if they are to avoid being drawn back into and refuelling violent national and regional crises.

87. Despite the significant progress in improving governance which many African countries have made, largely through their own efforts, serious problems of exclusion, monopoly of power and extreme poverty remain at the heart of many of the continent's problems. Furthermore, post-electoral crises in some countries have given rise to growing concerns in the Security Council that some domestic issues have potential spill-over effects on the regional peace and security situation.

88. The progress made over the past years is not always well established, and it could be offset or reversed by new threats and the deepening of existing challenges. The expanding negative impacts of climate change and rising food and fuel prices threaten recent encouraging development gains. Without development, peace cannot be sustained. The reverse also holds true; without peace, there is little basis for development. I urge even greater commitment and collaboration by United Nations agencies and Member States to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding in support of Africa's own efforts to achieve a conflict-free continent and to build a shared prosperity for its people.
