Columbia University

From the SelectedWorks of Karl P. Sauvant

2009

Annual Review of United Nations Affairs, 2007-2008

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/karl_sauvant/150/

Annual Review of United Nations Affairs

2007/2008

VOLUME I

Edited by
Joachim Müller
and
Karl P. Sauvant

Oceana®
NEW YORK

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS
Oxford University Press, Inc., publishes works that further Oxford University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education.

Copyright © 2009 by Oxford University Press, Inc.
Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press
Oceana is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.

ISSN: 0066-4340

ISBN: 978-0-19-538313-3 (2007/2008, Volume I)

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper.

Note to Readers:

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is based upon sources believed to be accurate and reliable and is intended to be current as of the time it was written. It is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought. Also, to confirm that the information has not been affected or changed by recent developments, traditional legal research techniques should be used, including checking primary sources where appropriate.

(Based on the Declaration of Principles jointly adopted by a Committee of the American Bar Association and a Committee of Publishers and Associations.)

You may order this or any other Oxford University Press publication by visiting the Oxford University Press website at www.oup.com

SUMMARY TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME I

Note: ARUNA 2007/2008

Overview: The United Nations Year 2007/2008: Focus on Long-term Threats while Dealing with Peacemaking Challenges – Joachim Müller and Karl P. Sauvant

Introduction: Towards a New Global Protocol on Climate Change – Jeffrey D. Sachs

Calendar of Conferences and Meetings of the United Nations, 18 September 2007 to 15 September 2008

List of Abbreviations

CHAPTER 1: General Assembly, Sixty-second Session

VOLUME II

CHAPTER 1: General Assembly, Sixty-second Session *(Continued)*

VOLUME III

CHAPTER 1: General Assembly, Sixty-second Session *(Continued)*

CHAPTER 2: Security Council

VOLUME IV

CHAPTER 2: Security Council *(Continued)*

CHAPTER 3: Economic and Social Council

VOLUME V

CHAPTER 4: Trusteeship Council

CHAPTER 5: International Court of Justice

CHAPTER 6: Secretariat: Annual Reports

CHAPTER 7: Peacekeeping Missions: Progress Reports

VOLUME VI

CHAPTER 7: Peacekeeping Missions: Progress Reports *(Continued)*

CHAPTER 8: United Nations System and United Nations Documents of Interest

INDEX

TABLE OF CONTENTS VOLUME I

Note: ARUNA 2007/2008 xi

Overview: The United Nations Year 2007/2008: Focus on Long-term Threats while Dealing with Peacemaking Challenges. xiii

Introduction: Towards a New Global Protocol on Climate Change – Jeffrey D. Sachs xxvii

Calendar of Conferences and Meetings of the United Nations, 18 September 2007 to 15 September 2008 xliii

List of Abbreviations lv

CHAPTER 1

General Assembly
Sixty-second Session

1. Statement to the General Assembly by Mr. Sergjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly, following the Opening of the Sixty-second Session, A/62/PV1, 18 September 2007 3

2. Statement by Mr. Sergjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly, at the Closing of the Sixty-second Session, A/62/PV122, 15 September 2008 7

3. Agenda of the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly, A/62/251, 21 September 2007 13

4. Resolutions Adopted by the General Assembly at its Sixty-second Session 25

62/1. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter 25

62/2. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency 26

62/3. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba 27

62/4. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal 28

62/5. Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula 30

62/6. The situation in Afghanistan 31

62/7. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies 42

62/8. Overview of United Nations activities relating to climate change 45

62/9. Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster . . . 45

62/10. World Day of Social Justice 49

62/11. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts 50

62/12. Report of the International Criminal Court 55

62/13. Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures 58

62/14. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace 61

62/15. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty 62

62/16. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) 63

62/17. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security 64

62/18. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East 67

62/19. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons 69

62/20. Prevention of an arms race in outer space 72

62/21. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification 74

62/22. Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them 75

62/23. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction 77

62/24. Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 80

62/25. Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments 82

62/26. National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology 83

62/27. Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation 84

62/28. Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control 87

62/29. Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament 88

62/30. Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium 89

62/31. Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) 90

62/32. Reducing nuclear danger 91

62/33. Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction 93

62/34. Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes 95

62/35. Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas 97

62/36. Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems 99

62/37. Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons 100

62/38. Regional disarmament 102

62/39. Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons 104

62/40. Prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems 106

62/41. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction 108

62/42. Nuclear disarmament 110

62/43. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities 114

62/44. Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels 115

62/45. Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context 116

62/46. Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources 118

62/47. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects 121

62/48. Relationship between disarmament and development 123

62/49. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean 125

62/50. United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament 128

62/51. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons 129

62/52. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific 130

62/53. Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa 132

62/54. Report of the Disarmament Commission 134

62/55. Report of the Conference on Disarmament 136

62/56. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East 137

62/57. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects 139

62/58. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region 141

62/59. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty 144

62/60. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 145

62/61. Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts 147

62/62. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law 148

62/63. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission 151

62/64. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fortieth session 154

62/65. Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done at New York on 10 June 1958 158

62/66. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-ninth session 159

62/67. Diplomatic protection 163

62/68. Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm 168

62/69. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization 175

62/70. The rule of law at the national and international levels 178

62/71. Measures to eliminate international terrorism 180

62/72. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country 185

62/73. Observer status for the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States in the General Assembly 187

62/74. Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly 188

62/75. Observer status for the Energy Charter Conference in the General Assembly 188

62/76. Observer status for the Eurasian Development Bank in the General Assembly 188

62/77. Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in the General Assembly 189

62/78. Observer status for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in the General Assembly 189

62/79. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community 190

62/80. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People 191

62/81. Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat 193

62/82. Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat 194

62/83. Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine 196

62/84. Jerusalem 201

62/85. The Syrian Golan 202

62/86. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind 203

62/87. Capital master plan 207

62/88. Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children 212

62/89. International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010 213

62/90. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace 217

62/91. Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster 219

62/92. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development 223

62/93. Assistance to the Palestinian people 226

62/94. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations 230

62/95. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel 234

62/96. Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence 239

62/97. Graduation of Samoa 241

62/98. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests 241

62/99. Assistance in mine action 249

62/100. Effects of atomic radiation 252

62/101. Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects 254

62/102. Assistance to Palestine refugees 258

62/103. Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities 259

62/104. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East 261

62/105. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues 264

62/106. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories 266

62/107. Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories 268

62/108. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan 270

62/109. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem 272

62/110. The occupied Syrian Golan 276

62/111. Questions relating to information 278

62/112. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations 292

62/113. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories 294

62/114. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations 296

62/115. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories 301

62/116. Question of Western Sahara 302

62/117. Question of New Caledonia 303

62/118. Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda,the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands 306

62/119. Dissemination of information on decolonization 319

62/120. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples 321

62/121. Question of Tokelau 325

62/122. Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade 327

62/123. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 328

62/124. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 329

62/125. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa 333

Note: ARUNA 2007/2008

ARUNA coverage of the UN year

The coverage of the *Annual Review of the United Nations Affairs (ARUNA)* follows the "UN year": as a rule, the regular sessions of the General Assembly of the UN begin each year on the third Tuesday in September and last 12 months. The Assembly's Committees normally meet October to December of each year, although the Plenary continues to meet throughout the year, whenever the need arises. (The UN calendar of conferences and meetings for the period covered can be found after the Introduction.) "Life" in the UN is therefore structured from September to September. This volume covers the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, 18 September 2007 to 15 September 2008. It contains complete coverage of the outcome of the work of the key organs of the UN.

ARUNA guest author: Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs

The flagship issue of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly was climate change. Accordingly, the Introduction of this year's edition deals with issues related to climate change and, in particular, the science underpinning the negotiations for a new global protocol on climate change, as a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. It is written by ARUNA guest author Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals.

ARUNA concept

ARUNA presents comprehensive documentation of the work of the United Nations for the time-period covered. Coverage of the UN's six key organs is provided: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. In addition, selected reports of intergovernmental bodies, expert groups and other materials are included. Solely official UN documentation is used.

ARUNA thus occupies a special place in the growing number of publications on the work of the United Nations—it allows readers to obtain an overview of the principal developments in its key organs during the time period covered. This makes it an important reference source for policy-makers and academic researchers.

Description of the chapters contained in ARUNA 2007/2008

The 2007/2008 edition comprises eight chapters:

- Chapter 1 covers the 62nd session of the General Assembly. It is introduced by the opening and closing statements of the President of the session, which highlight the main topics and achievements of the UN year under review. This is followed by the agenda of the annual session and the complete set of its resolutions.
- Chapter 2 contains the report of the Security Council, giving a detailed account of the various issues discussed, the documentation considered and the decisions taken by the Security Council during the year under review. This is followed by the resolutions of the Security Council.
- Chapter 3 contains the Report of ECOSOC, comprising three segments. It also reproduces its agenda and makes reference to the resolutions and decisions of the Council.

fall most heavily on the poorest and most vulnerable communities and in developing countries with the least ability to adapt. Technical and financial assistance will be needed particularly by vulnerable, low-income, developing countries to meet their mounting adaptation needs (that is, to protect society and the economy against droughts, floods, extreme weather events, and climate-related disease transmission). Mitigation and adaptation efforts need to be part of a coherent dual strategy.

RD&D

Governments will need to support, through direct funding or incentives for the private sector, major increases in research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of advanced non-carbon energy technologies. Funding currently is around $10 billion dollars per year worldwide, and just $3 billion per year in the U.S. Worldwide RD&D needs are probably closer to $50 billion per year, and the U.S. would be wise to be spending around $30 billion, both for global needs and U.S. national competitiveness. $30 billion per year in the U.S. would put the effort at roughly the level spent on health research in the National Institutes of Health.

Targets for increased RD&D should include technologies such as solar photovoltaic cells, solar thermal, geothermal, tidal, wave, and nuclear energy; carbon capture and sequestration; improved land management; and sustainable transportation. Special demonstration programs and other kinds of public policies that support innovation should be adopted so that promising new technologies and practices can reach the market quickly. Such programs will be of special importance in the rapidly industrializing developing countries, where most of the growth in emissions will be coming from. The highest demonstration priority, without question, is a series of CCS projects in the United States, India, China, Russia, and Australia, the world's heavy coal-using economies. If CCS works, we will have much clearer sailing toward global action. If CCS proves highly costly and unreliable, our options will be much worse and we'll have to redouble our efforts and creativity.

More generally, we will need a new system of intellectual property, which ensures not only rapid RD&D, but also the rapid uptake of the new technologies, including by the poorer countries. This will require new mechanisms for technology transfer. For example, rich-country governments might pay the royalties on patents to the IP-holding companies so that poor countries can obtain critical clean technologies on a royalty-free basis.

Who will pay?

Having a global road map for action is the critical first step. The next step is figuring out who will pay for the overall plan. The issue is especially important when considering the developing countries. Soon the developing world, with roughly five-sixths of the world's population, will be emitting more carbon dioxide in total than the industrialized world, though still much less on a per capita basis. The world cannot reach a viable solution for reducing carbon emissions without including the developing countries. Yet because of their limited resources, the developing nations cannot afford to pay for mitigation, adaptation, and RD&D on their own. They will necessarily require support from the developed countries, which will remain the much larger emitters of greenhouse gases per person.

There are many reasons why the developed countries should help finance the developing countries' efforts to limit and adapt to climate change. First, it is in their best interest to do so. A solution that excludes the developing world would be no solution at all. If the

developed countries wish to protect themselves from the negative effects of climate change, they had better help the developing countries protect themselves as well. Second, the developed countries are responsible for the preponderance of global carbon dioxide emissions since the start of the industrial era. Most important, however, cost must not be used as an excuse to postpone action. The longer we wait, the more expensive and dire the problem will end up being.

The issue of cost sharing will be highly charged and could cause negotiations to drag on for years. But the costs should not be exaggerated, nor should we wait for a perfect standard of fairness and efficiency, since no such standard exists. It would be one thing if the costs were huge—say, several percent of the GNP in high-emitting countries. But the good news, emphasized earlier, is that the global costs of keeping carbon dioxide concentrations below a long-term doubling of preindustrial CO_2 (or even much less) are likely to be considerably below 1 percent of the world's annual income. Yes, there will be a fight over allocating costs, but it need not be a huge battle.

Another piece of good news, mentioned earlier, is that the very solutions to the crisis—such as carbon emissions trading and carbon taxes—will collect critical revenues for national governments, which can then be used for all key purposes: mitigation, adaptation, research and development, and technology transfer. We should regard the impending increase in revenues from the taxation of carbon (and the auctioning of carbon permits) to be a key component of any effective international strategy.

Lessons from Ozone Depletion

Although the prospect of reaching a global agreement on such a complex issue, which involves a resource (the atmosphere) shared by every nation on the planet and strikes at the very core of our global economic system, is daunting, it is not impossible. Climate change is certainly a solvable problem. Indeed, we have addressed a similar, if far more focused, challenge in the past, with tremendous success. The progress in controlling the depletion of stratospheric ozone provides important lessons for us now.

In the mid-1970s, three brilliant atmospheric scientists—Paul Crutzen (originator of the concept of the Anthropocene), Sherwood Rowling, and Mario Molina—published a series of papers putting forward the idea that a class of chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) was endangering humanity through their effects on stratospheric ozone. When the CFCs were carried by air circulation into the upper atmosphere, the ultraviolet radiation of the sun dissociated the chlorine atoms from the CFC molecules, and the chlorine atoms then attacked the ozone. Since ozone protects us from ultraviolet radiation by absorbing the incoming solar UV rays, the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer posed a grave health hazard to humanity as well as a danger to crops and marine phytoplankton.

After the first studies of ozone depletion by Crutzen, Rowling, and Molina, scientists began to debate the new and still controversial findings about CFCs. The first reaction from businesses that relied heavily on CFCs was to attack the new findings. The chairman of DuPont, the world's leading maker of CFCs for refrigeration and aerosol sprays, famously described the theory as "a science fiction tale. . . a load of rubbish. . . utter nonsense."[8] Very soon

[8] *Chemical Week,* July 16, 1975.

afterward, though, further scientific research confirmed the initial findings, and a scientific consensus emerged. The public rallied behind the issue, galvanized in particular by the shocking picture, taken in space by a NASA satellite in 1985, of the visibly gaping hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica. It is important that a safe alternative to CFCs was developed and adopted by industry leaders, which made the prospect of abandoning the harmful chemicals more palatable to industry. Finally, the world adopted a global framework for action under the auspices of the United Nations.

In 1985, the world took its first steps in the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, a framework convention analogous to the UNFCCC. By 1987, the first operational steps were taken in the Montreal Protocol, analogous to the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. The Montreal Protocol began phasing out the use of CFCs in industrialized countries, while giving poorer countries extra time to phase them out as well. When DuPont realized that it could eliminate CFCs through the use of other chemical compounds, it signaled the U.S. government to support even tighter standards, and these tighter standards were adopted in the 1990 London Amendments to the Montreal Protocol. The world quickly, indeed almost painlessly, headed off a major manmade threat.

Towards Global Negotiating Success in Copenhagen in 2009

Solving the climate change problem will demand the same four steps as in the case of ozone depletion: scientific consensus, public awareness, the development of alternative technologies, and a global framework for action. We have come far in each area. The scientific consensus is strong. The public awareness has risen dramatically because of the onset of actual climate change, not merely its prediction for the future. New and exciting low-emission technologies are in the R&D stage, though not yet in widespread use. Finally, there is a global framework, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the first limited step in the Kyoto Protocol, and a growing determination to move forward to much stronger implementation in Copenhagen.

If the Vienna Convention on ozone is analogous to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the first Montreal Protocol is analogous to the Kyoto Protocol, we now need a post-Kyoto global agreement, the climate analogy to the London Amendments to the Montreal Agreement. Unlike the very limited and flawed Kyoto Protocol, a successful Copenhagen Protocol on Climate Change would recognize the increasingly important role of the developing world, both as contributors to the problem and as leaders in solving it.

The United Nations will have a critical role to play in solving the climate change crisis. This crisis is complex, global, and long term, all factors that make it so complex. It can only be solved through consistent and long-term global cooperation. That means that it can only be solved through the goals, leadership, and treaty mechanisms of the United Nations.

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

18 SEPTEMBER 2007 TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

2007

Organ	*Dates (2007)*	*Location*
General Assembly, sixty-second session	18 September–December	New York
UNCITRAL, Working Group on Security Interests	24–28 September	Vienna
Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat	27 September	Nairobi
Security Council, Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 692 (1991), sixty-fourth session	September (3 days)	Geneva
Human Rights Council, working group of experts on people of African descent, seventh session	September(5 days)	Geneva
UNRWA, Advisory Commission	September(1 day)	Amman
Committee on Conferences, substantive session	September (5 days)	New York
United Nations Staff Pension Committee	September/October (1 meeting)	New York
UNHCR, Executive Committee, fifty-eighth session	1–5 October	Geneva
UNCTAD, Trade and Development Board, fifty-fourth session	1–11 October	Geneva
Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, open-ended interim working group of government experts on technical assistance	3–5 October	Vienna
Human Rights Committee, Working Group on Communications	8–11 October	Geneva
Committee on the Rights of the Child, pre-sessional working group, forty-seventh session	8–11 October	Geneva
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Board of Trustees, twenty-seventh session	8–11 October	Geneva
Commission on Narcotic Drugs, meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean region	15–19 October	Santiago
UNCITRAL, Working Group on Transport Law	15–25 October	Vienna
Human Rights Committee, ninety-first session	15 October–2 November	Geneva
WFP, Executive Board, second regular session	22–26 October	Rome
United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, second regular session	26–27 October	New York
Investments Committee	29 October	New York
Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters	29 October–2 November	Geneva

- Chapter 4 is very short, reflecting the inactive nature of the Trusteeship Council.
- Chapter 5 contains the report of the International Court of Justice and gives details of its jurisdiction, composition and the work undertaken.
- Chapter 6 documents the work of the Secretariat. It starts with the Annual Report of the Secretary-General for the sixty-second session of the General Assembly. This is followed by a number of reports of various entities of the UN.
- Chapter 7 presents progress reports for the main peacekeeping missions.
- Finally, chapter 8 contains selected reports of intergovernmental bodies, expert groups and the Secretariat of the United Nations and the United Nations System.

We trust that this publication is of use to all those interested in the work of the UN.

ARUNA is edited by Dr. Joachim Müller, Director, World Meteorological Organization (e-mail: joachimwm@gmail.com), and Dr. Karl P. Sauvant, Executive Director, Vale Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment (a joint center of The Earth Institute at Columbia University and the Columbia Law School), and Co-Director, Millennium Cities Initiative (e-mail: karlsauvant@gmail.com). The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the institutions with which the editors are affiliated.

Overview

The United Nations Year 2007/2008: Focus on Long-term Threats while Dealing with Peacemaking Challenges

by
*Joachim Müller and Karl P. Sauvant**

At the beginning of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) on 24 September 2007, the Secretary-General convened a one-day high-level event on climate change: "The Future in Our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change." The summit drew top officials from more than 150 countries, including 70 Heads of State. Climate change was the "flagship issue" of the sixty-second session.[1] It was also one of the five priorities identified by the General Assembly at the beginning of the session, with the other ones being financing for development, achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), countering terrorism, and reforming the management, effectiveness and coherence of the Organization.[2]

On 11 December 2007, two car bombs exploded in the city of Algiers. One bomb targeted two UN buildings, the other a government building housing the country's supreme court. The death toll was over 60 (including 17 UN staffers) and injuring 40 more. A subsequent review by UN troubleshooter Lakhdar Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, concluded that UN officials ignored credible threats in the year preceding the attack.[3] This followed the August 2003 suicide bomb attack in Baghdad that killed 22 UN officials. The UN had become the target of al Qaeda and other extremist groups. The reason was that a growing part of the Arab world perceived the policies of the UN as being no longer impartial and neutral, but rather as being too aligned with those of the United States.

Climate change

A major step toward tackling the problem of global warming was the adoption of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. It commits signatories to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and establishes an emissions trading mechanism. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force in February 2005; it will expire in 2012. By then, a new international framework has to be put in place. Unprecedented interest in climate change was triggered by the Fourth Assessment Report

---

* The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the institutions with which the authors are affiliated. The authors wish to thank Hannelore Hoppe and Timothy Wall for helpful comments.

[1] For a detailed discussion see the Introduction to this edition of ARUNA by Jeffrey D. Sachs, 'Toward a new global protocol on climate change.'

[2] See Chapter I.A for 'Statement to the General Assembly by Mr. Kerim, President of the General Assembly, following the opening of the sixty-second session,' A/62/PV1, 18 September 2006.

[3] The Secretary-General established an Independent Panel on Accountability in June 2008 to gather and review documentation relating to the attack, identify the officials and offices concerned with the security of the UN operations in Algiers, establish findings and make recommendations. The panel submitted its report to the Secretary-General in September 2008.

of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[4] issued in February 2007. IPCC brought together more than 2,000 scientists. It concluded that the "warming of the climate system is unequivocal," and that most of the observed increases in temperature are "very likely" due to the rising concentration of greenhouse gases due to human activities, mostly the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. In October 2007, IPCC and Al Gore, a former Vice President of the United States, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts regarding manmade climate change.

Negotiations for a post-Kyoto agreement began in early 2007, with the aim of reaching an agreement by 2009 to allow time for ratification prior to 2012. A series of UNFCCC meetings was planned as part of the negotiation process, including a major conference in Bali, Indonesia (3–15 December 2007); the final conference will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark (in 2009). The Bali Conference brought together more than 10,000 participants, including representatives of over 180 countries, observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and the media. IPCC submitted its Synthesis Report as a major contribution to the discussion. In fact, the Bali Conference was postponed to December to allow the IPCC Synthesis Report to be available for the meeting. The Secretary-General championed the conference, which ended with a historical breakthrough. The participants, including China and the U.S. unexpectedly agreed on the adoption of the Bali Action Plan,[5] which charts the course for a new negotiating process to be concluded by 2009. The issues to be covered include actions for adapting to the negative consequences of climate change, such as droughts and floods; ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; ways to deploy climate-friendly technologies widely, and finance both adaptation and mitigation measures. The conference also agreed that the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC is the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of climate change to date.

The General Assembly's thematic debate on climate change was held on 11–13 February 2008 in New York. The meeting built on the outcome of the Bali Conference and focused on partnership with the private sector and civil society. Attention was also paid to particularly vulnerable States, including small island nations. This was followed by the launch of a new initiative by the Secretary-General in April 2008 at the level of Executive Heads to coordinate a UN system-wide approach to address climate change.[6] Nine focus and crosscutting areas were defined, bringing together UN specialized agencies, programmes, funds and the UN Secretariat.[7] The objective was to show concrete results through this coordination arrangement by the time of the next climate change conference in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008. The work programme covers issues such as reducing emissions from

[4] See Chapter VII.A.2 of ARUNA 2006/2007 for 'Climate change 2007: the physical science basis, summary for policymakers, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),' 2007.

[5] See Chapter VIII.A.1 for 'Bali Action Plan,' FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1,15 December 2007.

[6] See Chapter VIII.D.1 for 'Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2007/08,' E/2008/58, 12 May 2008.

[7] Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA); the World Bank, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

deforestation, technology transfer, mitigation, adaptation, capacity building, science, early warning, and public awareness.

UN response to emergencies: Cyclone Nargis and the global food crisis

On 2 and 3 May 2008, Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar with winds up to 200 kph, sweeping through the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) delta region and the country's main city and former capital, Yangon (Rangoon). The storm claimed over 130,000 lives and left more than 2 million people in need of humanitarian aid, contaminating water sources and obliterating schools. A UN flash appeal was launched on 9 May. Relief efforts were already underway at the time of the launch of the appeal, but they were hampered by access difficulties. Myanmar's regime complicated recovery efforts by delaying the entry of UN planes delivering medicine, food and other supplies. A natural disaster was turning into a humanitarian catastrophe. Similarly, the Myanmar junta continued to reject offers by the United States to provide assistance. The Secretary-General visited Myanmar by the end of May to persuade the military rulers to open the borders for relief workers and facilitate the clearance of relief supplies in every way possible. This was partly successful and opened the way for much needed relief and relief operations, which got off the ground in early June.

The years 2007 and 2008 saw dramatic rises in world food prices, creating a global crisis and causing discontent and hardship in both developed and developing countries and political and economical instability and social unrest in the latter. Initial causes of the price spikes included unseasonable droughts in grain-producing nations and rising oil prices. Oil prices further increased the costs of fertilizers, food transport, and industrial agriculture. Other causes were the rising use of biofuels in developed countries and growing demand for a more varied diet, especially meat, across the expanding middle-class populations of Asia. These factors, coupled with falling world food stockpiles contributed to the dramatic worldwide rise in food prices. By mid 2008, the average world price during the past two years for rice had risen by over 200 percent; for wheat, maize and soybeans, the increase had been over 100 percent.[8]

In April 2008, the Chief Executive Board (CEB)[9] of the UN system established a High-Level Task Force (HLTF)[10] on the Global Food Security Crisis under the leadership of

[8] See Chapter VI.G for 'World Food Programme: Annual Report of the Executive Director for 2007,' E/2008/14, 28 February 2008.

[9] See Chapter VIII.D.1 for 'Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2007/08,' E/2008/58, 12 May 2008.

[10] HLTF participation has included: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Monetary Fund (IMF); United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO); World Bank; World Trade Organization (WTO); Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); Department of Political Affairs (DPA); Department of Public Information (DPI); Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO); the Special Adviser

the Secretary-General. The HLTF created the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA)[11] which covers activities in three areas: emergency needs; building up the agricultural sector and food production; and loosening counter-productive trade restrictions. The Secretary-General appointed UN Under-Secretary-General John Holmes as Task Force Coordinator.

As part of ECOSOC's efforts to respond to emergencies, the Council held a Special Meeting on the global food crisis (20–22 May) to consider the threat posed by the global food crisis and its impact on food security for the poor and the most vulnerable. The FAO held a High-Level Conference on World Food Security: Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy in June 2008 that called for increased food production, fewer trade restrictions, and more agricultural research. Even though the Summit was not a pledging conference, US$18 billion was mobilized for food security and agriculture. At July's G8 Hokkaido Tokyo Summit, the G8 leaders recognized the UN's coordinating role and recorded their support for the High-Level Task Force and the Comprehensive Framework for Action.

Development

The operational arm for development includes such UN funds and programs as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).[12] Coordination of activities between the UN system organizations, including the specialized agencies, is done in the UN System Chief Executive Board (CEB).[13]

In April 2008 and in response to a new mandate, the General Assembly held the Annual Ministerial Review of progress on the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The Assembly also assessed progress as regards system-wide coherence already achieved at the country level. The year 2007 presented the midpoint for achieving the MDGs, which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS to providing universal primary education by the target date of 2015. The ministerial-level thematic debate considered where priority action could be taken to accelerate progress, especially since it

on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

[11] See Chapter VIII.B.1 for 'High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, Comprehensive Framework for Action,' July 2008.

[12] See Chapter VI.B for 'United Nations Children's Fund: Annual Report of the Executive Director for 2007,' E/2008/6, 19 December 2007, Chapter VI.C for 'United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Population Fund: Joint Annual Report of the Administrator of UNDP and of the Executive Director of UNFPA for 2007,' E/2008/5, 6 November 2007, Chapter VI.D for 'United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Report of the High Commissioner for 2007,' A/62/36 (Supplement No. 36), 2007, Chapter VI.E for 'United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Report of the High Commissioner for 2006/2007,' A/62/12 (Supplement No. 12), 2007; Chapter VI.F for 'United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: Report of the Commissioner General for 2006,' A/62/13 (Supplement 13), 2007.

[13] See Chapter VIII.D.1 for 'Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination for 2007/2008,' E/2008/58, 12 May 2008.

was clear that some countries would fall short, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The event also reviewed the anti-poverty promises pledged in the Monterrey Consensus[14] (a development financing partnership struck in 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico) and laid the groundwork for the Review Conference on Financing for Development to be held in December 2008 in Doha, Qatar.

The 2006 report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence had put forward a number of proposals to restructure the UN development work in order to eliminate program overlap between UN agencies and offices in each country. System-wide coherence included "Delivering as One," also called "One UN," at the country and regional levels, the harmonization of business practices, funding, governance and gender equality and the empowerment of women. To test the restructuring, eight countries (Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam) have been operating as pilot countries since January 2007. The pilot programs have begun implementing UN development work by consolidating the operations at the country level, with one leader, programme, budget, and office. The stocktaking exercise by UN country teams, national governments and UN agencies in June 2008 provided a preliminary analysis. The pilot countries' experience was considered positive and brought significant changes in traditional methods of work. Increased government leadership and ownership was seen to have led to a greater alignment between UN and government development-related priorities. Moreover, the UN agencies had demonstrated increased participation and joint programming. A formal evaluation will be conducted in 2009.

Normative issues

Conferences and meetings to foster global norms remain one of the key functions of the UN.[15] This includes efforts to draft a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), on the agenda of the General Assembly since 1996. The CCIT is meant to serve as a binding and enforceable instrument of international criminal law. Member States struggled with questions on the scope of, and exception to, the definition of terrorism. Among the most problematic issues are whether the definition should include state-sponsored acts and/or military activities, and how to handle acts within an armed struggle against foreign occupation, aggression or colonialism (which some consider as exercising the right of self-determination).

In September 2006, the Assembly succeeded in approving the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Strategy aims to dissuade, deny, and defeat terrorism while maintaining a defense of human rights. Although not the hoped-for CCIT, agreement on this Strategy was expected to provide momentum for agreement on the Convention. A new attempt by the Assembly to reach agreement on the CCIT failed, however, in March 2008, with the problem of definition still unresolved. Nevertheless, the Assembly

[14] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/187, Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, 19 December 2007.

[15] See Calendar of Conferences and Meetings of the United Nations, 18 September 2007 to 15 September 2008.

held a review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in September 2008, to monitor its implementation.[16]

The Assembly also convened interactive thematic debates on human security and human trafficking. This included the June 2008 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.[17] It also adopted the UN Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Staff and Related Personnel.[18] Another session highlight was the convening of the Assembly's first ever dialogue to promote inter-religious and intercultural understanding and cooperation for peace. The Assembly also convened a three-day conference to review progress toward "A World Fit for Children"; the Plan of Action to improve the lives of young people had been approved by Governments in the Assembly in 2002.

Rafiq Hariri: Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Rafiq Hariri, the Prime Minister of Lebanon from 1992 to 1998 and again from 2000 to October 2004, had been assassinated on 14 February 2005 when explosives were detonated in the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Hariri, a self-made billionaire and business tycoon, dominated the country's post-war political and business life and was widely credited with reconstructing Beirut after the 15-year civil war. Hariri's killing led to political changes in Lebanon, including the Cedar Revolution and the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon. Following Hariri's death, there were several other bombings and assassinations against anti-Syrian figures. These included Samir Kassir, George Hawi, Gebran Tueni, Pierre Amine Gemayel, and Walid Eido. Assassination attempts were made on Elias Murr, May Cidiac and Smir Shehade; the last of them was investigating Hariri's death.

At the request of the Government of Lebanon, the Security Council set up the International Independent Investigation Commission (IIIC) in April 2005. In October of that year, the Commission submitted its initial findings to the Security Council, implicating Syrian and Lebanese officials, with special focus on Syria's military intelligence chief, Assef Shawkat, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's brother-in-law. In November 2007, the Secretary-General appointed Daniel Dellemare of Canada to be the Commissioner of the IIIC to succeed Serge Brammertz of Belgium. In March 2008, a report of the IIIC to the Security Council stated that evidence had shown that a criminal network had been responsible for the massive car bombing that killed Hariri and 22 others in Beirut in February 2005. The same network was seen to be linked to some of the other cases of assassination that fall within the mandate of the Commission.[19]

---

[16] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/272, The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, 5 September 2008.

[17] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/178, Organization of the 2008 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, 19 December 2007.

[18] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/214, United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel, 21 December 2007.

[19] See Chapter VIII.C.1 for 'Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1757 (2007),' S/2007/525, 4 September 2007, Chapter VIII.C.2 for 'Second report of

The Statute of the Special Tribunal entered into force in June 2007; the Tribunal is hosted by The Netherlands. The Special Tribunal is a "hybrid" international court. It will not, however, apply international criminal law but rather Lebanese law. The chambers are composed of both Lebanese and international judges, with the latter having the majority. It is estimated that the Tribunal will cost $120 million over three years. In March 2008, the Secretary-General appointed Robin Vincent of the United Kingdom, a veteran of numerous international court proceedings, as Registrar of the Tribunal. The appointment reflects the steady progress in establishing this institution. The court is expected to open in 2009. This is the first time that an international court will try individuals for a terrorist crime committed against a specific person.

Peace building and peacekeeping

The expansion of peacekeeping operations continued in 2007/2008. Following a dramatic rise in recent years, the number of peacekeepers had risen to over 80,000 by mid-2006. By mid-2007, this figure had grown further to over 100,000 peacekeepers, and by mid-2008 to nearly 108,000 (see box on the following page). By September 2007, the UN was involved in 11 political and peace-building missions.[20]

Despite this expansion, the UN appears to be increasingly relegated to a supporting role in many of the world's diplomatic conflicts. When violence erupted in Kenya after a disputed presidential vote, the African Union recruited Kofi Annan to help restore calm. Similarly, South Africa effectively blocked an initiative to grant the UN a more central role in mediating an end to an election crisis in Zimbabwe. The efforts of the UN to stem bloodshed in Sudan's Darfur region have experienced major difficulties. Russia rebuffed the UN's offer to provide diplomatic help in stemming further violence in a conflict between Georgian and Russian troops over the separatist province of South Ossetia. The Secretary-General had clashed before with Russia over Kosovo's independence drive. Moreover, the Secretary-General had been careful when pressing Myanmar to democratize the country and to secure the release of political prisoners, including Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. He decided in December 2007 not to travel to the country and meet with military rulers, fearing it might end in failure.[21] The low-profile diplomatic style of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon contrasts with the activism of his predecessor, Kofi Annan, who sought to expand the authority of his office. In the following, a number of the main peacekeeping operations and peace-building missions are reviewed.

---

the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1757 (2007),' S/2008/173, 12 March 2008.

[20] Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa (UNOWA), Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East (UNSCO), Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for Lebanon, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (NAMA), United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNISIL), United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea Bissau (UNOGBIS), United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

[21] At the same time, he entrusted those tasks to his Senior Representative Mr. Gambari.

Peacekeeping operations as of 31 June 2008	
	Peacekeeper*
Africa	
MINURCAT (Central African Republic and Chad)	451
MINURSO (Western Sahara)	491
MONUC (Congo)	22,026
UNAMID (Darfur)	11,125
UNMEE (Ethiopia and Eritrea)	728
UNMIL (Liberia)	14,568
UNMIS (Sudan)	13,400
UNOCI (Cote d'Ivoire)	10,458
Americas	
MINUSTAH (Haiti)	10,837
Asia and the Pacific	
UNMIT (East Timor)	2,827
UNMOGIP (India and Pakistan)	118
Europe	
UNFICYP (Cyprus)	1,072
UNMIK (Kosovo)	4,604
UNOMIG (Georgia)	414
Middle East	
UNDOF (Golan Heights)	1,188
UNIFIL (Lebanon)	13,289
UNTSO (Middle East).	394
Total	**107,990**

Source: United Nations, DPI/1634/Rev.85, July 2008
* Including troops, military observers, police, international civilians, local civilians and UN volunteers.

The **United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)** was established by the Security Council in November 1999 to help implement a ceasefire and bring about an agreed process for a political settlement. MONUC is the largest peacekeeping force deployed by the UN, with 22,026 peacekeepers by mid-2008 (as compared to 21,898 in mid-2007).[22] The Second Congo War, also known as Africa's World War, began in August 1998 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly called Zaire), and officially ended in July 2003 when the Transitional Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo took power (though hostilities continue to this day).

[22] See Chapter VII.A.1 for 'Twenty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo,' S/2007/671, 14 November 2007, Chapter VII.A.2 for 'Twenty-fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo,' S/2008/218, 2 April 2008; Chapter VII.A.3 for 'Twenty-sixth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, S/2008/433, 3 July 2008.

The largest war in modern African history, it directly involved eight African nations, as well as about 25 armed groups. In October 2006, Joseph Kabila was elected president. Despite an overall increase in the level of stability, over one million people remained internally displaced in the east of the country. By 2008, 5.4 million people had been killed in the war and its aftermath, mostly from disease and starvation, making the Second Congo War the deadliest conflict worldwide since World War II. Millions more were displaced from their homes or sought asylum in neighboring countries.

The **United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH)** has been in Haiti since 2004 in support of the Transitional Government, to support a secure and stable environment within which the county's constitutional and political process can take place. MINUSTAH consisted of 10,837 peacekeepers in mid-2008, as compared to 10,389 in mid-2007.[23] The Mission continues to struggle for control over armed gangs. By end-2006, the UN announced that it would take a tougher stance against gang members. In early February 2007, 700 UN troops flooded Cité Soleil, resulting in a major gun battle. Survivors frequently blame UN peacekeepers for the deaths of relatives. In April of 2008, Haiti faced a severe food crisis as well as governmental destabilization due to Parliament's failure to ratify the president's choice of a prime minister. There were severe riots, and the UN force fired rubber bullets in Port-au-Prince to calm the riot. The head of MINUSTAH has called for a new government to be chosen as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the UN is providing emergency food.

The **United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)** focuses on political facilitation and humanitarian assistance. Specifically, the Mission was tasked with promoting national reconciliation, reducing sectarian tension, strengthening national unity, assisting in the holding of elections, supporting the drafting of the Iraqi constitution, and promoting the protection of human rights. One of its tasks is to implement the International Compact with Iraq. Initially set up by the Security Council in August 2003, the mandate of UNAMI was updated in June 2004[24] with the establishment of the Iraqi Interim Government. By mid-2008, there were approximately 300 UN international staff and 400 national staff serving in Iraq, Kuwait and Jordan.[25] The mandate of UNAMI operates through a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Iraq. The first such representative was Sérgio Vieira de Mello who was killed in the Canal Hotel bombing on 19 August 2003. The most recent Special Representative is Staffan de Mistura.

The **United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)** was entrusted with sweeping powers to govern Kosovo. Following the end of the conflict in 1999, the Security Council placed Kosovo under a transitional UN administration, pending a determination of its future status. NATO has a separate mandate to provide for a safe and secure

[23] See Chapter VII.B.1 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti,' S/2008/202, 26 March 2008, Chapter VII.B.2 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti,' S/2008/586, 27 August 2008.

[24] See Chapter 2.2 of ARUNA 2003/2004 for Security Council Resolution 1546 (2004), 8 June 2004.

[25] See Chapter VII.C.1 for 'Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1770 (2007),' S/2007/608, 15 October 2007; Chapter VII.C.2 for 'Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1770 (2007),' S/2008/19, 14 January 2008; Chapter VII.C.3 for 'Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1770 (2007),' S/2008/266, 22 April 2008; Chapter VII.C.4 for 'Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1770 (2007),' S/2008/495, 28 July 2008.

environment. In May 2001, UNMIK promulgated the Constitutional Framework, which established Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG). Since 2001, UNMIK has been gradually transferring increased governing competencies to the PISG. Kosovo has also established a municipal government and an internationally supervised Kosovo Police Service. In November 2001, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) supervised the first elections for the Kosovo Assembly. UNMIK consisted of 4,604 peacekeepers in mid-2008, as compared to 4,770 in mid-2007.[26] In February 2006, UN-backed talks began to determine the final status of Kosovo, led by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari (who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008). Kosovo's Albanians, the great majority of the province's population, preferred independence; the minority of Kosovo's Serbs was diametrically opposed to it. After many weeks of discussions at the UN, the United States, the United Kingdom and other European members of the Security Council formally discarded Ahtisaari's proposal on 20 July 2007, having failed to secure Russia's backing. The Assembly of Kosovo approved a declaration of independence on 17 February 2008. Over the following days, several governments (of the United States, Turkey, Albania, Austria, Germany, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, and others) announced their recognition of the new state, despite protests by Russia and others in the UN.

The **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** and the **United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)** are two missions that have been deployed in the Middle East for a considerable number of years. In July 2006, war broke out between Israel and the paramilitary forces of Hezbollah, mainly located in southern Lebanon. A UN cease-fire resolution ended the 34-day war on 14 August 2006. In response, the Security Council approved one of the largest peacekeeping missions in the history of the UN that included and expanded and enhanced UNIFIL.[27] The mission was strengthened from 2,395 peace keepers in mid-2006 to 13,289 in mid-2008.[28] Along with the UN troops, an equal number of Lebanese army troops were deployed in the south in the area that borders Israel. The

[26] See Chapter VII.D.1 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,' S/2007/582, 28 September 2007; Chapter VII.D.2 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,' S/2007/768, 3 January 2008; Chapter VII.D.3 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,' S/2008/211, 28 March 2008; Chapter VII.D.4 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,' S/2008/354, 12 June 2008; Chapter VII.D.5 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,' S/2008/458, 15 July 2008.

[27] See Chapter 2.2 of ARUNA 2003/2004 for Security Council Resolution S/1559 (2004), 2 September 2004, Chapter 1.4 of ARUNA 2005/2006 for Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), 14 August 2006.

[28] See Chapter VII.E.1 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006),' S/2007/641, 30 October 2007; Chapter VII.E.2 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (for the period from 7 June to 31 December 2007),' S/2007/698, 3 December 2007; Chapter VII.E.3 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006),' S/2008/135, 28 February 2008; Chapter VII.E.4 for 'Seventh semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004),' S/2008/264, 21 April 2008; Chapter VII.E.5 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008,' S/2008/390, 16 June 2008, Chapter VII.E.6 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006),' S/2008/425, 27 June 2008.

main task of UNIFIL is to ensure that southern Lebanon could not be used as a base for attacks on Israel. Specifically, the Security Council mandated the cessation of hostilities, the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the disarmament of Hezbollah, the full control of Lebanon by the Lebanese government, and the removal of Hezbollah south of the Litani River with their replacement by UNIFIL. As of December 2006, hostilities had largely ceased, Israel had withdrawn from Lebanon and UNIFIL forces were in place. The disarmament of Hezbollah, however, has not been carried out so far. In July 2008, Hezbollah transferred the coffins of two captured Israeli soldiers in exchange for one incarcerated Palestine Liberation Front militant, four Hezbollah militants captured by Israel during the war, and about 200 other Lebanese and Palestinian militants held by Israel.

The **United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)** was established to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan/ National Congress Party in Northern Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in southern Sudan. By mid-2007, UNMIS in southern Sudan consisted of 13,400 peacekeepers, a small decrease compared to 13,755 in mid-2007. For the Darfur region, the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) signed the Darfur Peace Agreement, which sought to end the three-year long conflict. The agreement specified the disarmament of the Janjaweed and the disbandment of the rebel forces, and aimed at establishing a temporal government in which the rebels could take part. The agreement, however, was not signed by all of the rebel groups. The 7,000-strong African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) was established to supervise the Darfur Peace Agreement. Sudan had long resisted the entry of UN peacekeepers in Darfur. With fighting continuing, the Security Council approved in July 2007[29] the **United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)**, an AU/UN hybrid peacekeeping operation. Its core mandate is the protection of civilians, as well as contributing to security for humanitarian assistance, monitoring and verifying the implementation of agreements, and assisting an inclusive political process. This is one of the largest and most complex field operations the UN has ever undertaken. UNAMID incorporates AMIS and is expected to have some 26,000 peacekeepers at full deployment, including almost 20,000 troops, more than 6,000 police and a significant civilian component. At full strength, UNAMID will become the largest UN peacekeeping mission in history and cost more than $2 billion a year. On 31 December 2007, African Union troops in Darfur exchanged green berets for blue ones to signal the formal creation of UNAMID. However, deployment had to be delayed. Lack of key equipment and the anticipated support by the Government of Sudan was not forthcoming. Instead, Darfur experienced an escalation of violence. UNAMID consisted only of 11,125 peacekeepers in mid-2008.[30] The United Kingdom and France suggested sanctions against the Sudanese

[29] See Chapter II.B of ARUNA 2006/2007 for Security Council Resolution 1769 (2007), 31 July 2007.

[30] See Chapter VII.F.1 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan,' S/2007/624, 23 October 2007; Chapter VII.F.2 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2007/653, 5 November 2007; Chapter VII.F.3 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2007/759, 24 December 2007; Chapter VII.F.4 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan,' S/2008/64, 31 January 2008; Chapter VII.F.5 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2008/98, 14 February 2008; Chapter VII.F.6 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on

government for the continuing violence in Darfur. Meanwhile the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor requested an arrest warrant for the Sudanese leader, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. This seriously restricts the ability of the Secretary-General to engage in direct talks with Sudan's leader. The nearly five-year conflict has killed over 200,000 people and uprooted 2.5 million from their homes. The Secretary-General said that no political issue has taken more of his time in 2007 than Darfur.

The **United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)**[31], established in September 2003, supports Liberia through a process of peace negotiations between Liberia's factions, presidential elections and continuous unrest. The mission helped to set up a transitional government and assisted in the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and national security reform, including national police training and the formation of a new, restructured military. By mid-2008, the mission included 14,568 peacekeepers, a decrease compared to 16,995 in mid-2007.[32] Liberia had experienced civil war since the early 1990s; 200,000 people were killed and millions others displaced into refugee camps in neighboring countries. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has made great strides in consolidating peace and promoting economic recovery in the country. As a result, the Security Council approved measures to draw down UNMIL, to result in a reduction to 9,750 peacekeepers by the end of 2010. At the request of the government, former president Charles Taylor was extradited by Nigeria to the UN war crime tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. He is the first head of state in Africa to stand trial for war crimes.

The **United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)**[33] was established to observe and monitor the implementation of the ceasefire agreement of May 2003 to end the civil war in that country. Since then, the country has been divided between the government-controlled south and the rebel-held north, the Forces Nouvelles. The Ouagadougou Political Agreement, a peace deal between the government of President Laurent Gbagbo and the rebels, was signed in March 2007. Subsequently, Guillaume Soro, leader of the Forces Nouvelles, became Prime Minister. The agreement calls for the creation of a new transi-

---

the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2008/249, 14 April 2008; Chapter VII.F.7 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan,' S/2008/267, 22 April 2008, Chapter VII.F.8 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2008/304, 9 May 2008; Chapter VII.F.9 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2008/400, 17 June 2008; Chapter VII.F.10 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2008/443, 7 July 2008; Chapter VII.F.11 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan,' S/2008/485, 23 July 2008, Chapter VII.F.12 for 'Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,' S/2008/558, 18 August 2008.

[31] See Chapter 2.2 of ARUNA 2003/2004 for Security Council Resolution 1509 (2003), 19 September 2003.

[32] See Chapter VII.G.3 for 'Sixteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia,' S/2008/183, 19 March 2008; Chapter VII.G.6 for 'Seventeenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia,' S/2008/553, 15 August 2008.

[33] See Chapter 2.2 of ARUNA 2003/2004 for Security Council Resolution 1528 (2004), 27 February 2004.

tional government, the organization of free and fair presidential elections, the merging of the Forces Nouvelles and the national defense and security forces, the dismantling of the militias and disarming of ex-combatants and the replacement of the "zone of confidence" separating north and south with a green line to be monitored by UNOCI. By mid-2008, the mission included 10,458 peacekeepers, a small increase as compared to 10,379 in mid-2007.[34]

UN reform

Management and governance reform remained on the agenda of the Assembly. In April 2008, it held a thematic debate on management reform, focusing on three specific topics: improving budget analysis, modernizing human resources practices and mandate review. Little, however, was achieved. Member states expressed concern about the piecemeal approach of the budgetary process, but supported the modernization of human resource management[35] and encouraged further efforts to achieve a better gender balance and equitable geographical representation. A new internal system of justice is expected to become operational in 2009.[36] Procurement has been strengthened through the appointment of a lead agency and the introduction of an independent bid protest system.[37] The approval of the Capital Master Plan allowed for the beginning of the renovation of the headquarters building. After reorganizing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Secretary-General was pressing ahead with the reform and expansion of the political affairs activities. Such activities come under a new entity that follows through on policy implementation and deals with issues like election monitoring and judicial reforms.

The review of the Organization's 9,000 mandates had been one of the most contentious parts of the 2005 World Summit reform package. Through 2006, the General Assembly's informal consultations on this subject were marked by intense divisions over the scope and purpose of the exercise. The United States strongly supported the review and, by implication, the potential elimination of obsolete and redundant mandates, resulting in fearful reactions from states with vested interests. In addition, it was noted that the resource implications of mandates were not transparent and fully traceable, limiting therefore the value of the review. Given the obstacles identified, the Assembly decided to discontinue the mandate review process.[38]

---

[34] See Chapter VII.G.1 for 'Fourteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,' S/2007/593, 1 October 2007; Chapter VII.G.2 for 'Fifteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,' S/2008/1, 2 January 2008; Chapter VII.G.4 for 'Sixteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,' S/2008/250, 15 April 2008; Chapter VII.G.5 for 'Seventeenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,' S/2008/451, 10 July 2008.

[35] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/248, Human resource management, 3 April 2008.

[36] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/228, Administration of justice at the United Nations, 22 December 2007.

[37] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/269, Procurement reform, 20 June 2008.

[38] See Chapter I.D for General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/278, Mandate review, 15 September 2008.

Consultations on Security Council reform have been ongoing for the past 15 years, but without coming closer to an agreement. Expansion and veto privileges were the most controversial issues. Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, in particular, had high expectations as regards an improvement of their status. In March 2008, a group of member states (including Germany, along with Cyprus, Malaysia, Netherlands, Romania, and the United Kingdom) submitted a new reform proposal which had emerged from meetings in the General Assembly in November and December 2007. Rather than presenting a specific reform option, the proposal laid out a framework for negotiations, including the size of an expanded Council, the term length for the new seats and how many years the Council would follow an intermediate formula before conducting a review. Half of the proposal was devoted to changes in the Council's working methods.

The hope in producing such a proposal was to move from informal consultations in the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to intergovernmental negotiations in the plenary of the General Assembly. By doing so, the reform question would move from a consensus-based forum into a forum that allows for majority decisions. However, the membership disagreed with this approach. In an atmosphere of confusion and disarray, the Assembly agreed by consensus during the final hours of the sixty-second session to move to intergovernmental negotiations no later than 28 February 2009. As a basis for negotiations, the decision set out various positions and proposals, including as regards categories of membership, the question of the veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Council, working methods of the Security Council, and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly. The outcome was called historic and a "breakthrough" by delegations and UN officials. The United Kingdom said that the decision represented a move from a discussion of procedure to a discussion of substance. The President described it as a "very dramatic final stage of the 62nd session."[39]

*****

The UN seems to be less in the headlines. There is a risk that the UN is being marginalized by other power centers as the guarantor and arbiter of peace and security. Partly, this is the result of a change in geopolitics and gridlock in the Security Council. Russia and China have become increasingly assertive as reflected, for example, in the blocked proposals of western states to intervene in internal conflicts ranging from Georgia to Myanmar to Zimbabwe. On the other hand, new visions and spectacular proposals no longer overshadow painstaking daily work to bring about incremental improvements in the human endeavor. Moreover, the UN has been successful in raising awareness about such long-term threats as climate change and the global food crisis and in helping to secure commitments to fight poverty. This mixed picture may well endure as long as the Security Council lacks legitimacy and effectiveness—or it may be the inevitable result of a world in which individual nation-states pursue their own (often different) interests.

[39] See Chapter I.B for 'Statement by Mr. Kerim, President of the General Assembly, at the closing of the sixty-second session,' A/62/PV122, 15 September 2007.