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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY,
DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATIONProgramme 1. Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping,
research and the collection of information

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* The present document contains programme 1 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 1. GOOD OFFICES AND PEACE-MAKING, PEACE-KEEPING,
RESEARCH AND THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

A. Programme

1. General orientation

1.1 Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations gives, as the first purpose of the United Nations, the maintenance of international peace and security. The functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Security Council are, in that connection, set out in Chapters IV and V, respectively, while Chapter XV refers to the role of the Secretary-General. Article 97 states that the Secretary-General shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization, Article 98 adds that he shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him by, among others, the General Assembly and the Security Council, while Article 99 provides that the Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

1.2 To serve that purpose the Charter has therefore been central to the tasks of successive Secretaries-General. In recent years, however, that responsibility has greatly increased. As rarely before, the Secretary-General is now being called upon to exercise his good offices in a widening range of situations in order to resolve disputes, to direct a growing number of peace-keeping operations established by the Security Council, and to exercise his preventive diplomacy in the interests of peace.

1.3 In order to perform those functions effectively, the Secretary-General has, accordingly, taken a number of steps to strengthen his capacity and that of the Secretariat to deal with those growing responsibilities. Thus, in March 1987, the Secretary-General established the Office for Research and the Collection of Information to monitor global trends, to provide early warning of potential conflicts and to undertake research on matters pertinent to his good offices and to peace-keeping activities. Next, in light of the increasing need for peace-keeping, the Secretary-General decided in October 1988 that the Office for Special Political Affairs should be structured in a manner that could give greater focus to the planning, supervision and co-ordination of all peace-keeping activities. Further, in January 1990, the Secretary-General established a Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for Peace-keeping Operations. Finally, in relation to his good offices and peace-making activities and missions, which had seen a considerable increase in recent years, the Secretary-General decided that those activities should be undertaken under his direct supervision from within his Executive Office, and that appropriate administrative arrangements should be made for that purpose.

2. Overall strategy

1.4 At the intergovernmental level, general and specific policy guidance is primarily provided by the Security Council and the General Assembly. At the Secretariat level, primary responsibility falls under the Offices of the Secretary-General, in particular the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office for Special Political Affairs and the Office for Research and the Collection of Information. In addition, the Office of General Services is responsible for the

provision of administrative support to peace-keeping operations, as outlined in programme 43 of the present medium-term plan, and the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance provides financial services relating to peace-keeping matters, as outlined in programme 42.

1.5 The nature of the Organization's involvement in this area is clearly affected by the evolution of the international situation and is determined by the deliberative organs of the United Nations, especially the Security Council. In broad terms the strategies to be pursued under this programme are:

(a) To undertake appropriate measures to assist in the prevention and settlement of disputes; and for that purpose, and as required, to provide the good offices of the Secretary-General;

(b) To prepare for, set up and direct peace-keeping operations established by the United Nations;

(c) To undertake research and collect information to support the efforts of the Secretary-General in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In respect of each situation that arises, detailed courses of action will be elaborated.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

1.6 The programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Good offices and peace-making

Subprogramme 2. Peace-keeping operations

Subprogramme 3. Research and the collection of information.

Given that those subprogrammes relate to the provisions of the Charter on the maintenance of international peace and security, no relative priority designation is proposed.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. GOOD OFFICES AND PEACE-MAKING

(a) Objectives

1.7 The main legislative authority for the subprogramme is the Charter, including article 99. In addition, specific activities are also covered by resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

1.8 Good offices and related peace-making activities, such as special missions, constitute the fundamental means whereby the Secretary-General fulfils his political role. As such, they are intrinsic to the manner in which the Secretary-General carries out his responsibilities on a daily basis. Such

activities by the Secretary-General are undertaken at the request of the Security Council or the General Assembly, at the request of States, or on the initiative of the Secretary-General within the framework of his responsibilities under article 99 of the Charter. The fundamental objective of the Secretary-General in the discharge of his good offices is to assist States involved in disputes or conflicts to resolve their differences peacefully in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, wherever possible, to prevent conflicts from arising.

1.9 The Secretary-General has already undertaken specific measures to support his activities regarding the maintenance of international peace and security. In the more constructive international climate that now prevails, it can be expected that the Secretary-General will increasingly be called upon to exercise his good offices and undertake peace-making activities.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

1.10 In implementing the subprogramme, the Secretary-General will seek through appropriate administrative arrangements:

(a) To make his good offices available or provide other forms of intercession to assist parties to a dispute in dealing with problems that may affect international peace and security;

(b) To undertake special missions or other tasks decided upon by the Security Council and the General Assembly;

(c) To undertake activities connected with the discharge of his responsibilities under article 99 of the Charter.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

(a) Objectives

1.11 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from those resolutions and decisions, particularly those of the Security Council, which relate to specific operations.

1.12 Peace-keeping operations have generally been based on the following principles: a clear mandate; the consistent support of the Security Council; the co-operation of the parties in conflict; the readiness of Member States to make available personnel and resources; a geographically balanced composition; an effective and integrated United Nations command; and adequate financial and logistical support.

1.13 Peace-keeping operations have demonstrated their worth in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. Such operations are currently in existence in several areas of the world. The first objective of the subprogramme will be to direct existing operations.

1.14 The second objective of the subprogramme will be to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of the United Nations in conducting peace-keeping operations. Following the recent increase in the number of peace-keeping operations and of

potential new missions under active consideration, the capabilities of the Organization to conceive, plan, direct, execute and administer such operations at a time when retrenchments have taken place have been severely taxed. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, adopted a number of decisions aimed at improving the ability of the Organization to meet those increased demands and at facilitating support of those operations by Member States.

1.15 As part of this process, the Secretary-General, in January 1990, established the Senior Planning and Monitoring Group for Peace-keeping Operations, which consists of senior staff concerned with different aspects of such operations. The Group is chaired by the Secretary-General, or in his absence by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, and advises the Secretary-General on peace-keeping and related matters, including preparation of contingency plans for possible new peace-keeping operations and related activities; monitoring of the conduct of existing peace-keeping operations and related activities; and review of the organizational structure within the Secretariat that deals with matters related to peace-keeping operations. It also advises the Secretary-General on budget formulation and the monitoring and control of regular budget and extrabudgetary funds related to peace-keeping activities.

(b) Course of action by the Secretariat

1.16 In implementing the subprogramme, the Secretary-General, assisted particularly by the Office for Special Political Affairs, will undertake the following activities:

(a) To prepare for, set up and direct peace-keeping operations;

(b) To maintain liaison with Member States concerning participation in such operations;

(c) To ensure co-ordination among the departments involved and submit reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. RESEARCH AND THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

(a) Objectives

1.17 The legislative mandate for the subprogramme derives from Articles 98 and 99 of the Charter and General Assembly resolutions 41/70, 41/213 and 44/164.

1.18 Member States have stressed that the United Nations, through its relevant organs, should deal in a timely and urgent manner with potential or actual threats to the peace or with acute humanitarian situations. This requires a reliable and well-organized system for collecting, analysing and disseminating information for early warning of potential conflict areas where the United Nations could be of assistance in resolving disputes by peaceful means.

1.19 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To ensure that the pertinent United Nations organs are provided with information that can assist in the consideration of the most appropriate manner of

responding to impending or actual situations that have or are likely to have repercussions on the maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) To ensure that the Secretary-General is kept fully informed of international situations and trends in order to facilitate the discharge of his responsibilities.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

1.20 In implementing the subprogramme, the Office for Research and the Collection of Information will undertake the following activities:

(a) Providing early warning of developing situations requiring the attention of the Secretary-General;

(b) Collecting, consolidating and arranging timely distribution of political information from news agencies and the media and from United Nations information centres on developments related to peace and security for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials;

(c) Maintaining and further developing, as well as computerizing, a central data base system related to peace, security and emergency situations for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials;

(d) Assessing global trends based on publicly available information and research work and preparing for the use of the Secretary-General country, regional, subregional, and issue-related profiles in close consultation with officials dealing with negotiations and conflict resolution, bearing in mind the necessity to avoid duplication;

(e) Enhancing consultative and information sharing arrangements with other political departments and offices; promoting co-ordination of the long-range research, analysis and information functions of the Secretariat regarding political affairs and emergency situations; and organizing thematic interdepartmental task forces by the Secretary-General on issues of special interest to the Secretary-General and to the international community;

(f) Establishing and maintaining contact with organizations within the United Nations system, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the academic community in order to keep abreast of research relating to the discharge by the Secretary-General of his responsibilities regarding the maintenance of international peace and security;

(g) Monitoring of information and developments relating to possible flows of refugees, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/70 and 44/164.
