The United Nations During Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s Tenure: 1997-2006

As world leaders acknowledged at the 2005 World Summit, peace and security, development and human rights are the three interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations system. While work in each area is essential in its own right, their interdependence is constantly increasing. Over the past ten years, as demands have skyrocketed, the United Nations has become a more and more important operational actor around the world in each of the three areas. At the same time, in order to enable it to more efficiently and effectively deliver the range of services expected of it, the United Nations has undertaken more and further-reaching reforms than at any time in its history. Below are some of the key milestones and facts in each of these critical areas.

**Peace and Security**

The United Nations has responded to new or sharply increased challenges, notably from the breakdown of order in failed or failing states, and from international terrorism.

**Peacekeeping**

- Major strengthening of peacekeeping system following the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (2000), enabling the UN to handle dramatically expanding workload of increasingly complex and multidimensional missions.
- More than 90,000 peacekeeping personnel now deployed in 18 peace operations, compared with 20,000 in 15 operations in 1997.
- Increase in annual peacekeeping budget from approximately $1 billion in 1997 to approximately $5 billion in 2006.

**Peacebuilding**

- Creation of a Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Support Office, as proposed by the Secretary-General, to help countries make the transition from war to peace (2005). Establishment of Peacebuilding Fund with current funding projected at $180 million (2006).

**Counter-terrorism**

- Security Council resolutions create new counter-terrorism architecture: 1267 establishes al Qaeda/Taliban sanctions (1999); 1373 creates counter-terrorism committee (2001); and 1540 establishes requirements to prevent terrorist acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (2004).
- All world leaders condemn terrorism “in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes” (World Summit Outcome Document, 2005).
- Adoption by the General Assembly of the first-ever global counter-terrorism strategy based on Secretary-General’s proposed elements (2006).

**Diplomatic Initiatives**

- Promotion of the transition to civilian rule in Nigeria (1998).
- Indonesian acceptance of a popular consultation in East Timor (1999) and UN mission paving the way for the country’s independence (2002).
- Demarcation of the Blue Line and certification of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon (2000).
- Acceptance of Israel as a regional group member (2000), leading to election of the Permanent Representative of Israel as a Vice President of the General Assembly (2005).
- Settlement between Nigeria and Cameroon over the Bakassi peninsula (2006).

**AFRICA**

• Support for regional efforts in the area of peace and security, including for African Union missions in Burundi (2003) and Sudan (2004).
• More than $12 billion in humanitarian assistance extended by the UN system and its partners to 28 African countries since 1997.

**Development**

The United Nations has confronted the uneven impact of globalization, forging global consensus on a framework for a balanced and sustainable development policies, and on responses of solidarity and cooperation in the face of global challenges such as climate change and major epidemics.

**DEVELOPMENT**

• Establishment of the UN Development Group to bring greater coherence and coordination to the UN’s fight against poverty (1997).
• World leaders agree to the Millennium Development Goals, as articulated by the Secretary-General, setting a shared, time-bound, integrated and measurable framework for development cooperation (2000).
• The International Conference on Financing for Development reaches North-South agreement on development principles (“Monterrey Consensus”) and sets in motion a partnership to achieve internationally agreed development goals (2002).
• Reversal of the long-term downward trend line for Official Development Assistance following the Monterrey Consensus, and more than $50 billion annually in new money pledged for ODA in the run up to the 2005 World Summit.

**GLOBAL HEALTH**

• Creation of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – of which the Secretary-General is the patron – (2001), with $5.5 billion raised to date.
• Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) now incorporates 29 UN entities in a system-wide integrated plan and works on the ground in more than 75 countries.
• New system-wide UN coordinator manages global response to outbreaks of avian influenza in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (2005).

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

• Commitment to targets on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002).
• Entry into force of the Cartagena Convention on Biodiversity (2003).

**Human Rights, Rule of Law and Humanitarian Action**

The United Nations has championed the rights of individuals and responded to their needs, in a world where international relations are no longer a matter for States alone, but involve the peoples as well, as the opening words of the Charter imply.
**HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Agreement at the World Summit to double the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights over five years (2005).
- Countries with OHCHR presence increased from 14 in 1996 to more than 40 in 2006.
- The “Responsibility to Protect” civilian populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity embraced by all governments (2005).

**RULE OF LAW**

- First successful international prosecutions for genocide (including conviction and sentencing of a former head of government) and for rape as a war crime.
- Establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Extraordinary Chambers in Cambodia.
- Investigation of the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (2005-present).
- Adoption of 66 multilateral treaties, including the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and three international conventions against terrorism.

**DEMOCRACY**

- UN electoral assistance to 75 member states, including Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Liberia and Palestine.
- Creation of a UN Democracy Fund attracting more than $50 million in pledged or contributed funds (2005).

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- In 1996, consolidated appeals totalled $1.8 billion and assisted 17 million people in 1996. Ten years later, in 2006, consolidated appeals total $4.7 billion for assistance to 31 million people.
- The number of humanitarian offices increased from 12 offices with 114 staff members in 1997 to 43 offices with 815 staff members in 2005, strengthening responses to catastrophes such as Hurricane Mitch in Central America (1998), Mozambique floods (2000), the Bam earthquake in Iran (2003), the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004) and the earthquake in northwest Pakistan (2005).
- Establishment of a Central Emergency Response Fund, to which more than 40 donors have pledged $264 million, enables immediate response to sudden disasters or large unmet needs (2006).

**Strengthening the United Nations**

The United Nations has adapted its mechanisms and policies to the demands of a new age.

**MANAGEMENT REFORM**

- Introduction of results-based budgeting, consolidation of UN offices, elimination of 1000 posts, and creation of the post of Deputy Secretary-General (1997).
- Creation of the Senior Management Group, including heads of UN Funds, Agencies and Programmes, to improve system-wide coherence (1997).
- Increased coherence of country-level activities, including reorganizing UN field representatives into country teams (1997).
• Introduction of cabinet-style management and decision-making through the creation of Policy Committee
• Establishment of an Ethics Office and implementation of a whistleblower protection policy (2005).

**BROADENING OF THE UN CONSTITUENCY**

• Creation of the UN Fund for International Partnerships, which has generated nearly one billion dollars for UN programmes (1998).
• Establishment of the Global Compact to engage business (2000), which has enlisted over 3,000 participants from more than 100 countries.
• Reached out to the world's peoples through the Millennium Declaration (2000), and by giving greater voice to civil society at UN conferences and in the UN itself.

**ENHANCING UN ROLE ON KEY POLICY ISSUES**

• **Advancement of women:** Appointment of a woman as the first Deputy Secretary-General (1997); Landmark adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (2000); A total of 184 State Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (2006)
• **Promotion of tolerance:** Launching of “Unlearning Intolerance” seminars on Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, the role of the media, and genocide (2004); Creation of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative on bridging cultural and religious divisions (2005); General Assembly resolution 60/7 establishes January 27 as an annual day of remembrance for Holocaust victims (2005).
• **Migration:** Based on the Secretary-General’s Global Commission on Migration (2003), first ever high-level General Assembly dialogue on migration (2006) accords broad support to the proposed Global Forum on International Migration and Development.

**Secretary-General Kofi Annan:**

• Secretary-General from 1 January 1997 to present.
• Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management and Security Coordinator for the UN System (1987-1990); Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, and Controller (1990-1992); Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations 1993-1997).
• Awarded 2001 Nobel Peace Prize, jointly with the Organization.

For further information, please contact:
Tim Wall, Department of Public Information
212-963-5851, wallt@un.org

29 September 2006