Talking Points for the Secretary-General’s meeting with
H.E. Mr. João Manuel Guerra Salgueiro, PR of Portugal
– 21 November 2007 -3:30pm (Draft)

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Kosovo

- The UN and EU have a common cause in Kosovo: both have
great institutional interest in resolving it through negotiated
means. Failure to reach a negotiated settlement will be harmful
to the international system.

- For this reason, I welcomed the Troika-led negotiations and
continue to urge key Member States to support the Troika in
taking a pro-active approach and tabling proposals to the
parties to help bridge the gap.

- We need to be aware that the status quo in Kosovo is not
sustainable. Without clarity on Kosovo’s future status, the UN
Mission in Kosovo would risk becoming unviable and the UN
might be increasingly unable to effectively exercise its
mandate.
• How do you see the developments within the EU on Kosovo as we move towards the EU Council meeting in mid-December?

Middle East peace process - Annapolis

• The Israeli-Palestinian talks and the preparations for the Annapolis meeting are at a very crucial stage. Both parties need our engagement and support. We are looking forward to the US helping the parties reach a common ground which is in their mutual interest.

• I believe we need to maintain the framework in which the political issues are addressed throughout the process: the resolutions of the Security Council – 242, 338, 1397 and 1515; the Road Map; and the Arab Peace Initiative.

• Formal final status negotiations after Annapolis should be accompanied by immediate and parallel steps by both parties to implement Road Map and other obligations, monitored in a manner agreed by the parties, as well as by other crucial steps to build confidence on the ground. The Quartet and the broader international community will have a vital role to play in supporting such a process.

• I also continue to be deeply concerned about the internal Palestinian divisions and believe that these need to be overcome peacefully and politically. The unity of the Palestinian Authority needs to be restored.

Sudan (CPA and North South)

• I am concerned that the parties to the CPA have not yet succeeded in resolving their differences, following the SPLM suspension of its participation in the GNU on 11 October.
• However, they have taken steps to defuse tensions, and especially to avoid any escalation on the ground in the 1-1-56 border area.

• In this respect, I am encouraged by the decisions taken by the 2 November Ceasefire Political Commission. UNMIS is working closely with the parties to monitor implementation of the Commission's decisions in which they have promised to complete full redeployment by 9 January 2008.

• I also welcome the decision of the parties to accept UNMIS help in co-coordinating assistance to the formation of Joint Integrated Units (JIUs). This is an important investment in Sudan's long-term security, and I encourage Member States to contribute to the development of the JIUs.

• However, at the political level, the parties remain far apart on key issues, particularly the Abyei question. I encourage all those with influence on the parties to urge them to show the flexibility necessary to deliver long-term peace. They need to summon the political will to make difficult choices, not only on Abyei, but also to move forward with border demarcation and planning for the census and elections.

• It is preferable that the parties resolve these issues within the framework and through the mechanisms of the CPA. We have made clear that the UN stands ready to provide good offices if requested by both parties, and also to help them to implement their agreements as they may request.

• I greatly appreciate your ongoing efforts to support the peace process in Sudan.
Darfur

- I am grateful for EU efforts to ensure the successful deployment of the hybrid AU-UN Mission in Darfur.

- While the AU and UN are making progress towards bringing a political settlement to the Darfur conflict and deploying UNAMID, there remain several issues which must be urgently addressed.

- In particular, we have not received appropriate offers for essential air assets, which will be critical for the effectiveness of the force given the enormous area of operations. Nor have we received appropriate offers for ground transportation units, which will be crucial for the mission’s ability to move troops and logistical equipment throughout Darfur.

- We are still seeking a light tactical (attack) helicopter unit of 200 personnel, a medium transport company of 125 personnel, a heavy transport company of 200 personnel, 3 medium utility helicopter units of 160 personnel each, and a reconnaissance company of 120 personnel.

- Without these essential military capabilities, UNAMID will not be able to effectively implement its mandate, and its ability to provide protection for United Nations personnel in the mission will be severely impeded.

- I would be extremely grateful if you were to be in a position to provide any of these capabilities, or assist in encouraging other Member States to do so. In the meantime, the United Nations, and me personally, will continue our dialogue with possible troop contributors in order to assemble the best possible force for this crucial peacekeeping initiative in Darfur.
• It is also vital that we come to an immediate resolution of the force composition issues for UNAMID, as every delay of pre-deployment activity would have a direct and negative impact on the readiness of troops to deploy in early 2008.

• There are no alternatives for the inclusion of the non-African units. I would therefore like to appeal to the Government of Portugal to make concerted efforts to persuade Khartoum that the deployment of an effective UNAMID force as configured by the African Union and the United Nations is in the interest of the people of Sudan.

**Darfur Political Process:**

• I was glad that the peace talks started as scheduled on 27 October in Libya under the auspices of Special Envoys Eliasson and Salim.

• We were of course disappointed that not all leading personalities of the movements attended. It is important that they now join the process and agree on a common position and team for the negotiations. Your support in this respect would be greatly appreciated.

**Ethiopia/Eritrea**

• I am deeply concerned about the rising tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The EEBC stated that demarcation by coordinates will become effective at the end of November, after which the Commission would dissolve itself.

• The two countries are reinforcing their military presence on the ground and we are concerned that this may trigger a resumption of hostilities, either by accident or design.
• The reaction of the parties to the coming into effect of demarcation by coordinates remains unpredictable. Ethiopia has indicated that it will not accept SC endorsement of a declaration by the EEBC of demarcation by map coordinates.

• The parties should be encouraged to exercise utmost restraint, pull their troops back and restore the integrity of the Algiers Agreements and the TSZ.

• I am also wondering whether it would not be prudent to discourage the EEBC from insisting on a deadline that has the potential to trigger a crisis. We should also start exploring arrangements that could be put in place if the EEBC dissolves itself.

Somalia

• The mounting violence in Somalia remains a serious concern. The international community should continue to press for dialogue between the TFG and opposition groups, including the Asmara-based group.

  Ceasefire has to be agreed to by the Somali belligerents to provide the minimum framework required for effective international support.

• The Parliament's vote to amend the Charter provides a window of opportunity to broaden the base of the Transitional Federal Institutions and ensure a more inclusive political process. This political track would enable us to implement a security track that would necessitate the strengthening of AMISOM to enable the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces and create the conditions for genuine political reconciliation.
• In the meantime, the international community should help strengthen AMISOM by providing it with the necessary logistical and financial assistance to complete its full deployment.

• In view of the complex security situation on the ground we also need to think about innovative approaches to facilitate reconciliation and the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces, including the deployment of a multi-national force for a limited duration alongside a strengthened AMISOM.

DPA Strengthening

• I believe very strongly that we need to be more proactive in using preventive diplomacy and my good offices, and I am counting on support from the Member States for my proposals to strengthen DPA for that purpose. The Department has been chronically under-resourced. It is long overdue.

• This is a cost-effective way to save lives and resources, and a logical complement to the reforms already made to UN peacekeeping. As I told the Fifth Committee earlier this year, there is “no smarter investment” we can make than in making the UN more effective at stepping in and preventing conflicts before they become bigger and costlier crises.

• The cost over two years to strengthen DPA is budgeted at US$21 million for 2008-2009, which amounts to less than one percent of the roughly $2.5 billion being discussed for Darfur. If we have just one or two successes, it will pay for itself many times over.
• Myanmar is a good current example of the potential of the good offices for making a difference in resolving crises – however staffing and support for Mr. Gambari's missions have been sporadic, and when we redeploy staff to support such missions, other areas are neglected – this is not the way member states or I want the Secretariat to be run – jumping from gap to gap.

• If the academic literature tells us anything, for conflict prevention to be truly effective, it must be sustained – DPA experts need to get to know and understand conflict situations intimately to be effective – but to do this correctly we need to have sufficient core staff.

EU/Africa Summit

• We welcome your initiative in hosting the second EU-Africa Summit. This is a timely event.

• I have asked USG Guéhenno to represent me at the mini-summit on Côte d'Ivoire to be held on the margins.
Background information for the SG’s meeting with H. E. Mr. João Manuel Guerra Salgueiro, PR of Portugal

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Kosovo

[Troika-led negotiations: Four rounds of direct talks have not led to any points of agreement between Pristina and Belgrade. On 5 November, the Troika internally discussed proposing a solution along the lines of the 1972 German Basic Treaty—a model of ‘shared sovereignty under one roof’.

Mr. Ischinger has announced that the Troika would present a “neutral status” proposal during the 20 November talks, the aim of which would be to “normalize relations” between Pristina and Belgrade independently of the determination of Kosovo’s status. Elections: The 17 November Kosovo and municipal elections were held peacefully, although the Serb minority largely boycotted. Voter turnout was lower than the last elections in 2004, at 40-45%. The two leading parties, Hashim Thaci’s PDK (34%) and LDK (22%), are likely to form a coalition Government after 4 December. Contingency planning:

The Secretariat recently held discussions with representatives of the EU and the US to discuss scenarios following 10 December. These included planning, objectives and sequencing for the launch of the future EU-led missions in the event of a unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo early next year.]
**EU/Africa Summit**

[The second EU-Africa Summit, to be held in Lisbon on 8-9 December will gather Heads of State and Government from the two continents, representing 80 countries and almost 1.5 billion people. The first summit was held in Cairo in 2000. The Summit is intended to focus on current key international issues requiring closer co-operation, notably trade, climate change, migration, sustainable energy, governance and security; and to set the political course for the EU-Africa strategic partnership. African and EU leaders will sign a Lisbon Declaration, a consensus on values, common interests and strategic objectives; and adopt a Joint EU-Africa Strategy in four policy areas: peace and security, governance, trade, and development. USG Guéhenno will represent the Secretary-General at the mini-summit on Côte d’Ivoire to be held on the margins of the meeting. The possible presence of President Mugabe remains controversial, with British PM Gordon Brown indicating he will not attend if Mugabe does, and other EU Member States suggesting they would send ‘weakened’ delegations.]