

TALKING POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING with ACABQ

9 February 2007 - 10:30 a.m. – Conference Room 10

- I am delighted and honoured to be here today to discuss with you my restructuring proposals.
- As you know, on Monday I presented to the Membership as a whole my ideas on how we can collectively strengthen the work of our Organization in the area of peace and security. I laid out proposals for making the Secretariat more efficient, more results-oriented and more accountable in two fundamental areas of our work -- peace operations and disarmament.

Rationale

- From the outset, I have stated there is no hidden agenda.
- Key aims of this reform process is consolidating, strengthening and integrating the Secretariat's capacity for planning, managing and supporting peace operations.
- My proposals reflect the need to address structural gap between demands and overstretched capacity and in the case of disarmament, to fill a gap by re-energizing an agenda blocked by political stalemate.

Peacekeeping

- With respect to the realignment of DPKO, the concern of maintaining the unity of command and integration of effort is legitimate. This can and shall only be ensured through creating clear lines of specialization between the two proposed departments: clarity of reporting lines, of

Standard operating procedures, of integrated teams, as well as integration of the departments at every level.

- I am determined to align responsibilities with authority and necessary resources and am conscious about ensuring that the necessary checks and balances are maintained in overseeing the activities of the revised organizational structure.

Disarmament

- In the case of disarmament, I have departed from an earlier proposal of merging the department with DPA.
- The current proposal should not be viewed in terms of “downgrading” of the post, but as “upgrading” of the tasks. The new arrangement intends to maximize the flexibility, visibility, agility and proximity to me as Secretary-General to facilitate ongoing and new disarmament and nonproliferation efforts. There are no significant financial implications in the proposal.

Next steps

- I hope you can all recognize the urgency of pressing forward with our management reform for the Organization to best respond to the multiple crises around the world, while we attend to the day-to-day management of our operations.
- I have embarked on fresh consultations recognizing the need to engage in broad and intensive dialogue with a view to achieving consensus on the way forward.
- I ultimately intend to seek the membership’s approval on a broad framework resolution. The details in the shape of organigrammes and a narrative on our business processes in the case of DPKO will be provided in a comprehensive report and processed through the appropriate legislative

procedures, in particular through you – the ACABQ – and the 5th Committee.

- You as Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) clearly have a large and direct contribution to make in strengthening the UN's capacity in both peace operations and disarmament in the future. As you advise the General Assembly on budgetary and administrative matters, let me reassure you that while devising my restructuring proposals I have kept in mind the imperative of achieving results with no net increase in the regular budget.
- The comprehensive report I intend to submit will highlight in particular how I intend to align responsibility, authority, accountability and resources related to human resources, procurement, and financial management and budget for UN peace operations. The report will contain detailed proposals for delegation of authority and transfer of functions from the Department of Management to the Department of Field Support in these three main areas.
- When I presented my proposals for a restructuring on Monday, I pledged to engage in consultations with Member States without delay. I am using today's meeting as an opportunity for a dialogue with all of you.
- The above proposals shall be reviewed in two years time when we can take stock of my proposals and measure them against results.
- Your questions and suggestions will be of great help to me as I work to move my agenda forward.
- The senior officials who accompanied me today are ready to provide you with further details as needed.