



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

24 April 2012

Dear JSE Annan,

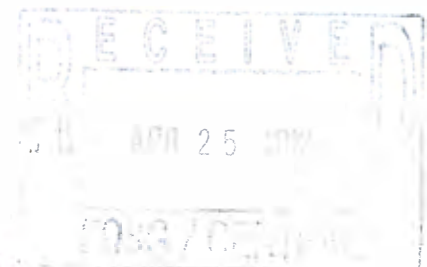
I would like to thank you for your letter of 23 April 2012. I very much appreciate your ongoing efforts as Joint Special Envoy and welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution 2043 (2012) on 21 April 2012. I agree with you that all United Nations partners must work seamlessly and as a closely integrated team to plan, deploy and manage the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS).

Security Council resolution 2043 (2012) specifies that UNSMIS, “comprising an initial deployment of up to 300 unarmed military observers as well as an appropriate civilian component as required by the Mission to fulfil its mandate” shall be responsible to “monitor a cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties and to monitor and support the full implementation of the Envoy’s six-point proposal”. Resolution 2043 (2012) also specifies that the Mission will be under the command of a Chief Military Observer. The mission will be funded through the peacekeeping budget.

I agree with you on how important the political aspect is for this mission. You, as the Joint Special Envoy, must play the central role in bringing this perspective together.

In order to enable clear lines of accountability, command and control, and the capacity to ensure an effective strategic, operational and political management in a very challenging security environment, I find it important that a well-tailored system is established. This system must recognize your responsibilities as the Joint Special Envoy and those ones belonging to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi A. Annan
Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations
and the League of Arab States for Syria
Geneva



12-03706

PKG/01/001

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For these reasons, I have asked the Under-Secretary-General for DPKO, Mr. Hervé Ladsous, to immediately engage with your Office and with the Department of Political Affairs in the development of a protocol that ensures full coordination, transparency and unity of effort and the establishment of a practical mechanism to operate.

I am confident that we will all do our utmost to implement these arrangements, with a view to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2043 (2012) and the six-point proposal.

Please accept, Mr. Annan, the assurances of my highest consideration.

With warmest regards,


BAN Ki-moon

UNSMIS: Protocol for coordination

Draft Proposal for discussion

The Joint Special Envoy plays the central role in Mediation and in the political process. As per Security Council Resolution 2043, UNSMIS is an instrument to monitor and support the JSE's six-point plan.

The following arrangements are meant to secure the good functioning among all parties in UNSMIS Mandate delivery.

Overall reporting lines and principles

As regards operational issues, UNSMIS will report to the Secretary-General through DPKO. As regards all mediation and political issues, UNSMIS will report to the Secretary-General through the Office of the JSE and DPA.

DPKO will ensure that the Office of the JSE and DPA are fully included in the planning, deployment and management of UNSMIS, in particular as regards its mediation and political aspects, and that all communications between UNSMIS and DPKO on operational issues are copied to the Office of the JSE and DPA. Similarly, the Office of the JSE and DPA will keep DPKO fully informed of any mediation and political developments which may have operational implications, and all communications between the Office of the JSE and DPA and UNSMIS on mediation and political issues will be copied to DPKO.

UNSMIS coordination meetings

To ensure full integration, a regular UNSMIS coordination meeting will be held in New York with the participation of the Office of the JSE (by videoconference), DPKO and DPA as well as other relevant UN partners. These meetings, which should usually take place at the senior working level, will serve as the key vehicle for coordination and will discuss all relevant operational as well as mediation and political issues, including strategic communications and relations with the media. At least initially, the UNSMIS coordination meeting will take place on a daily basis.

Resolution of differences

Any differences of opinion that cannot be resolved at the UNSMIS coordination meeting will be referred to the JSE and Under-Secretaries-General of DPKO and DPA. The final appeal instance will be the Secretary-General.

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23 April 2012

Dear Secretary-General,

Thank you for your continuing strong personal support to my mission as Joint Special Envoy. The Security Council has acted swiftly on the basis of your clear recommendation in authorizing UNSMIS. Further to our discussions, I wish to share with you some thoughts as efforts proceed with planning and deployment of the mission.

First, I believe it is important that we share a common understanding of the political purpose of the Mission, which is mandated to monitor a cessation of armed violence and to monitor and support full implementation of the six-point plan. The plan was designed to help put an end to violence, but not to freeze conditions on the ground. On the contrary, its implementation would provide an enabling environment for my efforts to facilitate a genuine political process. The Mission would therefore be deployed into a dynamic rather than static environment, and its work would contribute to changing those dynamics in a positive way.

Second, it is important to ensure clear strategic political guidance to the Mission so that it can implement its mandate in a manner that supports the overall objectives of the six-point plan, and of the political process. On the military side, the posture and focus of UNSMIS will need to be continuously fine-tuned with adequate political guidance, to reflect the evolution of the mediation. On the civilian side, UNSMIS will need to be guided to support effectively the non-military elements of the six-point plan, and to provide appropriate support and inputs to my mediation effort.

I, therefore, believe, as we discussed in Geneva, that the Mission should report to United Nations Headquarters (DPA and DPKO) through my office, so that I am able to provide political guidance to UNSMIS, including its military component. At the same time, there should be a direct reporting line to DPKO for all operational matters that require immediate action (with copy to DPA and my office), so that there is clear accountability, in a situation where there are risks for the personnel deployed.

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

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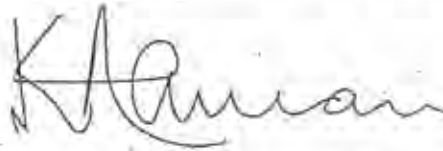
Unity of command on the ground would be ensured by the chief military observer, who should have authority on the military observers as well as on the civilian component of the mission. The civilian component should have both an advisory and an operational role regarding the monitoring and supporting of the full implementation of the six-point plan.

Practical arrangements should reflect the suggested chain of command: effective and secure communications between Damascus-Geneva-New York will be essential, including regular videoconferences to ensure close coordination of DPKO operational responsibilities with the political guidance of my office.

Third, as the planning of the Mission's structure and recruitment of personnel start in earnest, particularly as regards the civilian component, I believe that my office as well as DPA should be fully included in the planning process and in key staffing decisions.

I am convinced that the prospects of success of UNSMIS and of the mediation are closely linked. The suggestions in this letter are designed to help ensure that the planning process of the Mission, as well as the command and control arrangements, reflect that linkage. Under your leadership, I believe it is vital that DPA, DPKO, my office, and UNSMIS work seamlessly as a closely integrated team, so that UNSMIS has the guidance, support and personnel it needs to contribute to the broader political objectives which the United Nations seeks to achieve.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Kofi A. Annan
Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the
League of Arab States for Syria