

Note to Mr. Prendergast

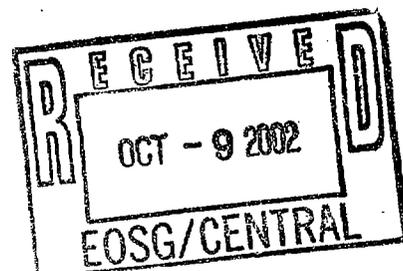
United Nations' support to the African Union

The Secretary-General has approved the proposals outlined in your note of 4 October 2002, regarding support for the African Union. The proposed funding arrangements should be cleared with the Controller, if required.

Thank you.

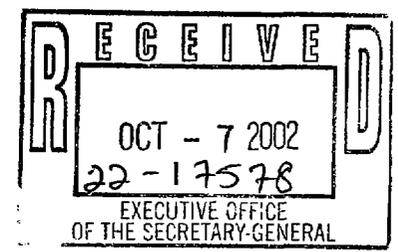


S. Iqbal Riza  
8 October 2002



10/10/02  
MR RIZA  
Proposals on U.N support for  
the African Union, for the  
Secretary-General's attention.  
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Note to the Secretary-General

**UNITED NATIONS' SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN UNION**

1. Following your meetings with Mr. Amara Essy, the Interim Chairman of the African Union, in mid-September, DPA has held further consultations with African Union officials and UN departments. Before proceeding further, I would like to submit for your approval the basic outlines of an approach to providing support to the African Union.

2. You will recall that in the course of your meeting with Mr. Amara Essy on 17 September 2002, the question of United Nations support for the African Union was further discussed during which you gave an undertaking that the UN would assist the African Union in the development and operationalization of the organs and institutions of the newly established organization. You further requested that we develop concrete proposals that would clearly define the scope of work as well as the financial resources that would be required to undertake those projects. As a follow-up to this meeting, Mr. Kalomoh met with Mr. Said Djinnit to further elaborate on the requirements and the priorities of the African Union, especially in the area of Peace and Security. DPKO also participated at this meeting.

**Areas of Assistance requested by the African Union**

3. The African Union has highlighted the following as the most immediate priority of the African Union in the area of peace and security:

- Operationalization of the Protocol of the Peace and Security Organ. The objective is to work towards the ratification of this protocol by the next summit of the African Union in Maputo (July 2003);
- The creation of the Panel of the Wise and the development of its structure and rules of procedure;
- The development of a capacity to manage peace-keeping operations. DPKO's assistance would be required towards the development of procedures for mission-planning, logistics and procurement and all that goes into the deployment of field operations;
- The AU has decided to establish its own Standby Force (this would need to be rationalised with the UN Standby arrangement as well as some of the existing sub-regional standby arrangements);
- An AU Military Staff Committee;

#14 7 Oct.

- Electoral Assistance Unit to undertake election monitoring as well as provide technical support to AU members;
- Report writing and standard procedures for political analysis and reporting – the AU would wish to second their staff officers to DPA to understudy the functions of the Desk Officers and the procedures used by DPA in the preparation of its reports.

4. In follow-up discussions between DPA and the AU, it was agreed that the AU would further elaborate its requests. The UN would then evaluate these requests to determine the level and nature of support that the Organization is able to provide as well as assist the AU to identifying international partners to complement these efforts.

5. The idea of seconding desk officers was considered as important for both organizations: AU officials would spend some time and the UN and UN desk officers at the AU; DPKO has already commenced this programme.

6. It was also proposed that AU officials should be encouraged to participate in UN training programmes, especially the Early-Warning Training and other staff development programmes that are conducted by the UN Staff College in Turin. However, given the impending restructuring of the former OAU Secretariat into the AU and the likelihood of a high turnover of staff at the interim AU Commission, it was suggested that this recommendation should not be implemented until the new AU Secretariat structure is in place.

### **Proposed Plan of Action**

7. In order to coordinate and expedite UN support to the AU, as well as ensure coherence in the organization's overall approach, DPA and DPKO have established a Joint Task Force on support to the AU. The Task Force will prepare, in close consultation with the AU, a strategy document containing detailed project proposals and budgets for the implementation of the areas highlighted by the AU as priorities. The Task Force proposes to undertake a technical assessment mission to Addis Ababa during the first part of November, to consult further with the AU and to determine those areas that are within the scope of the UN to undertake. The Department of General Assembly and Conference Management shall be invited to join the Task Force in order to provide advice to the AU on how the UN undertakes conference management. You will recall that you had proposed to Mr. Essy that this dimension of support be included.

8. Since UNDP has been implementing programmes of support for the development of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Management, and is now supporting the African Union, it might be important for them to share their plans with the Task Force. Accordingly, UNDP will be invited to join the Task Force. //

9. When the Task Force concludes the preparation of the proposals and budgets, Mr. Kalomoh will further engage the AU to negotiate a memorandum of understanding on the nature of UN support and an implementation timeline.

10. Once we embark on this programme of support, we will need to stay the course, which could take three to five years (at least in the provision of technical advice.) The most intensive period of activity will probably be the first year of implementation, followed by several years of follow-up and provision of technical advisers as needed.

11. I propose that we earmark \$1 million from the Trust Fund for Preventive Action and supplement this by raising extra-budgetary funds from donors. (The present balance in the Fund is approximately \$3.0 million.) This would enable us to begin at once to provide support to the AU, demonstrating our commitment not only to the AU itself but also to potential donors from whom we would seek co-financing. (Of course earmarking is not the same as approval to spend, and specific activities would be funded in accordance with the standard approval process.) The Secretariat will act as a funding umbrella for individual projects implemented by various departments and/or agencies. It will also be necessary to establish a small programme coordination team in DPA, led by a project manager, both to work closely with the AU and to ensure effective coordination within the UN. The unit would be especially needed during the first 12-18 months of the programme, and should include a manager based at the AU in Addis. The costs for this would also be covered by the Trust Fund. // ←

12. The next step, should you approve of the overall approach proposed here, would be to field the inter-agency mission to Addis Ababa to consult with the AU as well and, concurrently, to name a Project Manager to support DPA and the Task Force. Should the mission take place by mid-November, we would aim to have a full needs assessment report, with recommendations and project proposals, prepared for your consideration by the end of the year.

*Kieran Prendergast*  
for Kieran Prendergast  
4 October 2002

cc: Mr. Guéhenno  
Mr. Kalomoh

*Approved but do clear the funding proposed with the controller.*  
*[Signature]* 8/10