



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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Security Council

31 January 2008

Dear Mr. President,

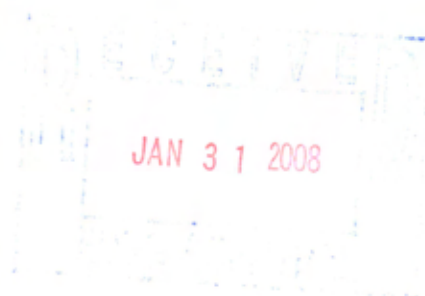
I would like to refer to Security Council resolution 1793 (2007) of 31 December 2007, by which the Council requested me to submit by 31 January 2008, for its consideration, a completion strategy for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), including: a) at least a 20 percent reduction in staff numbers by 31 March 2008, b) a continued mission at 80 percent of the current strength until 30 June 2008, and c) the termination of UNIOSIL mandate by 30 September 2008. In the same resolution, the Council also requested me to ensure that UNIOSIL maintains adequate capacity, expertise and resources to implement its mandate of providing assistance to the 2008 local government elections and national institutions promoting good governance and human rights, as well as of supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. Accordingly, the Secretariat, in cooperation with UNIOSIL, has developed a completion strategy, which takes into account the Council's request to ensure that the Mission has sufficient remaining capacity to complete its mandated tasks.

#### UNIOSIL Completion Strategy

##### First phase reduction in staff by 31 March 2008

The authorized staffing strength of UNIOSIL currently stands at 309 and is comprised of 85 international personnel, 199 national staff/national professional officers and 25 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs). In order to determine the number of staff required to perform the remaining tasks mandated by the Council, UNIOSIL conducted a section-by-section assessment of the remaining tasks and the personnel required to implement them. The remaining tasks include assisting the Government in its efforts to reform the Constitution, enhance democratic governance, strengthen the security, judicial and corrections sectors, promote human rights, strengthen women's participation in the political process and address the root causes of the conflict as identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

His Excellency  
Mr. Giadalla A. Ettalhi  
President of the Security Council  
New York



28-01165

The Mission will also continue to monitor and assess the political and security developments in the country, support policy dialogue, promote inter-party dialogue, facilitate Sierra Leone engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission and assist the Government in the conduct of the local government elections, which are currently scheduled for 5 July 2008.

Based on this mission-wide review, it was determined that 62 posts, representing 20 percent of the Mission's authorized staffing complement, could be downsized by 31 March 2008, thereby bringing the Mission's staffing strength to 247 civilian staff. The 62 posts will be comprised of 15 international staff members (including four professional officers at the P-3 level and 11 field service officers), 43 national staff and four UNVs. Four of the 15 international staff members are assigned to the Mission's substantive sections, while 11 are assigned to its administrative and security sections. Of the 43 national staff, 8 are from the substantive component and 35 are from the administrative and security components. Of the four UNVs, one is assigned to the substantive component, while three are assigned to the administrative component.

To ensure that the Mission retains the requisite capacity to effectively perform its remaining tasks, UNIOSIL is in the process of streamlining tasks within each section. In addition, the Mission will transfer some of its activities, including the recruitment of UNVs who will provide technical assistance to the National Electoral Commission during the elections, to relevant United Nations agencies.

#### **Tasks to be performed by the remaining 80 percent of staff**

Until its mandate expires in September 2008, UNIOSIL will continue to implement the following key tasks set out in Security Council resolutions 1620 (2005) of 31 August 2005, 1734 (2006) of 22 December 2006 and 1793(2007) of 31 December 2007:

- **Assisting the Government in the conduct of the local government elections**

UNIOSIL will provide policy advice, as well as technical and logistical assistance to the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission. It will also assist the Government in defusing political and ethnic tensions and in promoting dialogue between key political parties, especially in light of the political and ethnic cleavages that were highlighted by the 2007 general elections and which may intensify in the period leading up to the 2008 local government elections. The Mission will also assist in coordinating technical, financial and logistical support for the elections.



- **Monitoring the security situation in the country and strengthening the capacity of the national security sector**

UNIOSIL will support the Government's efforts to strengthen the capacity of the security sector, including the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Office of National Security. In its effort to assist in building the capacity of the SLP to provide effective security during the local government elections, UNIOSIL will advise and mentor the SLP in crowd control management and polling center responsibilities. It will also assist the SLP in specialized areas such as criminal investigations, airport and border security, civilian oversight and improving professional standards. A total of 22 United Nations police advisers are currently performing these functions. Between March and August 2008, five police advisers will depart the Mission without replacement. The remaining 17 police advisers will depart the Mission by 30 September 2008.

- **Promoting transparency and accountability**

UNIOSIL will promote good governance, including through measures to combat corruption and improve accountability. In this regard, the Mission will offer policy guidance to the Government and the Anti-Corruption Commission in the implementation of Sierra Leone Anti-Corruption Strategy and its Improved Governance and Accountability Pact. UNIOSIL will also coordinate international support for building the capacity of Parliament.

- **Monitoring and promoting human rights and the rule of law**

UNIOSIL will monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country and assist in building the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission and in reforming the judicial and corrections sectors. The Mission will also support the Government in the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and in the preparation and submission of reports to international treaty bodies.

- **Promoting a culture of peace, dialogue and participation through UN Radio**

Through the United Nations Radio, UNIOSIL will continue to promote a culture of peace, dialogue and participation and encourage the holding of peaceful, fair and transparent local elections. The United Nations Radio will also maintain its role of providing a forum for civic education, debate of national issues and balanced reporting on events nationwide. Plans for the transition of UN Radio assets into a national independent public service broadcaster, including a proposal for funding this transition, are being developed by UNIOSIL.

- **Implementing Resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000**  
UNIOSIL will support national efforts aimed at building the capacities of the Sierra Leonean Government and civil society organizations to promote women empowerment and women participation in the decision-making process and the local council elections. The Mission will also work closely with national stakeholders to reduce the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence.
- **Facilitating the work of the Peacebuilding Commission**  
In its efforts to assist the Government in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone, UNIOSIL will facilitate the engagement between Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission, through the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework adopted on 12 December 2007. The Mission will also facilitate the implementation of projects under the Peacebuilding Fund.

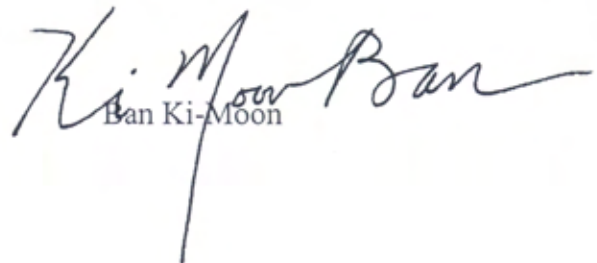
#### **Termination of UNIOSIL's mandate by 30 September 2008**

Following the local government elections on 5 July 2008, UNIOSIL will gradually draw down its remaining personnel. It is envisaged that substantive personnel will start drawing down first, while the administrative and logistical staff needed to complete the liquidation process, will withdraw last. It will be important to ensure that there is a smooth transition from UNIOSIL to the follow-on integrated political office referred to in my fifth report on UNIOSIL (S/2007/704) of 4 December 2007.

I intend to submit to the Security Council any possible additional proposals on the Mission's drawdown, as well as on the mandate, structure and strength of the follow-on integrated political office in my April report on UNIOSIL.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

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

  
Ban Ki-moon



#1 PRIORITY

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached, for your approval, the Secretary-General's draft letter to the President of the Security Council on UNIOSIL's completion strategy.

The Security Council in its resolution 1793 (2007) of 21 December requested the Secretary-General to submit by 31 January a completion strategy for UNIOSIL, including 20 per cent reduction in staff by 31 March 2008.

The draft letter notes the intention of the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council any possible additional proposals on the Mission's drawdown, as well as on the mandate, structure and strength of the follow-on integrated political office in his April report on UNIOSIL.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Haysom'.

Nicholas Haysom  
31 January 2008

Cc: KWS

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**PRIORITY**

Note to Mr. Nambiar

**Re: The Secretary-General's draft letter to the President of the Security Council on UNIOSIL's completion strategy**

Please refer to Security Council resolution 1793 (2007) of 21 December 2007, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit by 31 January 2008, for its consideration, a completion strategy for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), including a) at least a 20 per cent reduction in staff numbers by 31 March 2008; b) a continued mission at 80 per cent of the current strength until 30 June 2008; and c) the termination of UNIOSIL's mandate by 30 September 2008.

The United Kingdom, which is the lead Member State supporting Sierra Leone's post-conflict peace consolidation process, has proposed that the completion strategy be submitted in the form of a letter to the President of the Council. The draft letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council is attached. We would be grateful if you could obtain the Secretary-General's signature for the attached letter, at his earliest convenience.

  
Jean-Marie Guéhenno  
31 January 2008

cc: Mr. Pascoe  
Mr. Derviş  
Ms. Lute