

The background of the cover features a photograph of the United Nations building in Geneva. A large United Nations flag is visible on the left side, waving against a clear blue sky. The building's facade, with its classical architectural style and columns, is partially visible. A large, semi-transparent dark blue rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and other text.

SWITZERLAND UN

The 2007 Report of the Federal Council



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THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLDWIDE

2006

January



ETHIOPIA: UN soldiers on patrol. The *United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)* is the official name for the ongoing deployment of a UN force which has been in Ethiopia and Eritrea since July 2000. The Mission is monitoring the fragile peace between the two countries. The deployment involves about 1,500 soldiers and 200 military observers.

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SUMMARY

In this report the Federal Council describes the most important developments that have taken place at the United Nations during the past year. It also gives an overview of some of the main concerns and challenges of Switzerland's host country policy and summarises the conclusions that can be drawn from our experiences with presenting Swiss candidates for top-level posts in the UN and other international organisations. To conclude, the Federal Council assesses Switzerland's activities within the UN since becoming a full member in 2002, and presents our country's priorities with regard to the next General Assembly in September 2007.

Events at the UN in the past 12 months have been dominated by the appointment of the new Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, a former foreign minister of South Korea. On his first official visit to Bern, on 19 April 2007, he set out his priorities to the delegation of Federal Councillors who met him. The Federal Council assured him of its support for his task to strengthen the UN and to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of its activities. The reform efforts within the UN were continued last year, resulting in the creation of the new bodies that were decided at the 2005 World Summit, namely the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Switzerland, which has been elected as a member of the Human Rights Council for three years, is actively involved in the development and adoption of the Council's working methods and procedures with a view to enabling the new body to be more effective than its predecessor in promoting and defending human rights throughout the world.

The institutional reforms were pursued with varying degrees of success. The main emphasis of the reform efforts was on strengthening coherence within the UN's operational system in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, and the environment. The recommendations regarding these areas of activity, which were presented at the end of Kofi Annan's term of office, will be resolutely pursued by his successor. Switzer-

land, which is an active player in these fields, is committed to implementing these activities, which are designed to strengthen the operational capacities of the United Nations.

The most important developments in Switzerland's host country policy concern real estate questions, in particular in connection with the needs expressed by the World Trade Organization for larger premises. With the new Host Country Act, which Parliament approved in September 2006, and its support for the creation of a new academic centre for international studies, the Federal Council aims to provide our country with the necessary resources to make an active contribution to the development and expansion of Geneva as a location for international organisations.

The Federal Council has given a positive assessment of Switzerland's activities at the UN during its first five years as a full member. It considers the UN to be an indispensable instrument for safeguarding our country's interests and for achieving our foreign policy objectives. Switzerland will continue to actively support efforts to raise the efficiency of the UN in the coming years by strengthening its own capacities for launching initiatives.

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ETHIOPIA: The Indian contingent of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea provides free veterinary services.

INTRODUCTION

Five years ago on 3 March 2002 the people and the cantons of Switzerland made the historic decision to approve the popular initiative for our country to join the United Nations. 10 September 2007 will be the fifth anniversary of our country becoming a full member of the UN.

This anniversary occurs at a time when the UN is going through a major transitional phase. The reforms that were decided at the 2005 World Summit, particularly in the fields of peace and of human rights, have now been implemented, and the new bodies created as part of that dynamic process must be consolidated in their working methods. The application of reforms continues, notably in operational activities in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. At the internal level, reforms are also being implemented in the areas of finance and administration. This transition coincides with the end of the mandate of Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the beginning of the mandate of the new Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. This change at the head of the United Nations will have repercussions on the internal dynamism of reforms and on UN priorities, and this in turn will have an impact on our country's relations with the United Nations.

In the 2007 report, the Federal Council presents the outstanding developments that have occurred in the past year, with the changes at the head of the organisation and the continuation of the process of UN reform. It also reviews a number of important issues and challenges regarding our host country policy and considers the lessons learned from recent experience in the area of Swiss candidacy campaigns within the UN and international organisations. Finally, this report provides an opportunity to take stock of our country's activity in the United Nations since it became a full member in 2002 and to present our country's priorities for the next UN General Assembly which starts in September 2007.

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March



LIBERIA: UN soldiers arrest the former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor. The *United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)* is the official name for the ongoing deployment of a UN force which has been in Liberia since 2003. The Mission is intended to assist the return of war refugees and to disarm various rebel groups. About 14,000 UN soldiers have been deployed.

THE UN AT A TIME OF CHANGE

The appointment of the new Secretary-General and the continuation of the reform process have marked the UN over the past year. However, the results of these reforms varied greatly, depending on the ability of the Member States to agree on resolutions and on measures.

CHANGE AT THE HEAD OF THE UNITED NATIONS

On 13 October 2006, the UN General Assembly appointed the South Korean foreign minister Ban Ki-moon as new UN Secretary-General by consensus. He had previously been selected as the sole candidate for the post by the Security Council. Ban Ki-moon succeeded Kofi Annan on 1 January 2007.

Evaluation of Kofi Annan's mandate

After ten years at the head of the United Nations, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's period in office expired on 31 December 2006, thus ending an outstanding career within the UN which began when he joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva in 1962.

During his career, Kofi Annan held a number of different posts. He was responsible inter alia for peacekeeping operations, and was Assistant Secretary-General and Special Rapporteur for former Yugoslavia for Secretary-General



The President of the Swiss Confederation, Micheline Calmy-Rey, meets the new UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in Bern.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali. On 1 January 1997 he was the first UN employee and the first representative of Sub-Saharan Africa to be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations. During his period of office, Kofi Annan shaped the UN more than most of his predecessors and indeed embodied the UN. The joint award of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize to Kofi Annan and to the United Nations marked the climax of his very successful first period of office.

On the whole, Kofi Annan skilfully used the scope of his position as the

highest-ranking civil servant in the United Nations to extend the UN's role as an organisation dedicated to peace and to conflict mediation. He played a leading role in bringing peace to the Balkans and in bringing about independence for East Timor. Behind the scenes he sought solutions to the Cyprus question, injected fresh impetus into the search for peace in the Middle East and used his influence with leading figures in his home continent of Africa. At the same time he consistently focused the UN on development policy, as underlined by the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals by

the community of states in 2000. In his report 'In Larger Freedom: Towards Security, Development and Human Rights for All', he initiated an extensive process of reform, which reached its peak in the 2005 World Summit. His report on the UN's System-wide Coherence, established a basis for discussion. Finally, in his report on the 'Alliance of Civilisations' he diagnosed one of the most sensitive issues of the present and of the future.

Kofi Annan attached great importance to the strategic positioning of the UN in global politics. He demonstrated this

by pressing ahead with internal reform of the UN and by greater openness towards new partners. When formulating and implementing the Millennium Goals, Annan clearly realised that in the age of globalisation international relations are shaped not only by states but also by society and business. He sought to establish partnerships with non-governmental organisations and with the scientific and business communities. With the aid of former Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi he also put sport on the UN agenda. By establishing the Global Compact in Davos, he offered the private sector a network of dialogue and of learning based on autonomous responsibility by companies, encouraging them to participate in the realisation of the UN's social, environmental and human rights standards.

In the latter part of his term of office, Kofi Annan faced increasing difficulties. His second term was marked by tension with the United States of America and by the Oil for Food scandal in Iraq, which eroded Kofi Annan's moral authority, the quality on which, in the absence of institutional power, the influence of the Secretary-General mainly depends. Yet it was precisely Kofi Annan who by the power of his words embodied this authority in international relations. However, the Iraq war of 2003, which was waged without a UN mandate, the unsolved Middle East crisis and the continuing Darfur crisis demonstrated that there are limits even to the influence of the Secretary-General.

Kofi Annan is an interlocutor who is well-disposed to Switzerland and has personal contacts to our country and to international Geneva. His charisma, his public profile and his interest in Switzerland becoming a full member of the United Nations have won him considerable popularity in our country. The Federal Council wishes to acknowledge the contribution made by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the strengthening of international co-operation and to International Geneva and is pleased about Kofi Annan's decision to reside in Geneva and to head the new Foundation 'Forum humanitaire de Genève'.

The appointment of the new Secretary-General in the international context

The United Nations is rent by a number of divisions, notably between the General Assembly, where developing countries can express their aspirations and to a certain extent determine the agenda, and the Security Council, whose permanent members enjoy considerable decision-making power and, thanks to their veto, have the power to block resolutions. The divisions between Member States are such that they often hamper the UN's capacity to implement collective action for peace and security or to make progress in developing international law.

Against this background, the appointment of a new UN Secretary-General constituted a test of Member States'

ability to rise above their differences in order to ensure the continuity of the institution. It is therefore particularly gratifying that the appointment of the new Secretary-General took place in a harmonious and consensual manner.

The differences between the General Assembly and the Security Council were undoubtedly in evidence in the process of selection of the Secretary-General. Many delegations wished to see the General Assembly play a greater role, in the form of hearings of candidates or even the possibility of choosing between several candidates. These proposals came to nothing. As in the past, it was the Security Council – in effect its five permanent members – which made the choice and submitted only one name to the Assembly. Nevertheless, a number of procedural compromises allowed for a more transparent appointment than in the past. The candidates were known in advance, the General Assembly was regularly informed of the progress of the selection process within the Council, candidates conducted full-fledged campaigns, notably by presenting themselves to regional groups, and the system of straw polls within the Council meant that it was possible to decide rapidly and reasonably transparently between candidates.

The rift between North and South, which strongly marked the debate on UN reform that was conducted with diminishing enthusiasm in 2005 and

2006, did not as such really affect the selection process for the Secretary General. The candidates were not regarded as being supported by developed or by developing countries and a consensus rapidly emerged that the post of Secretary-General would go to the Asian continent, given that the previous Secretaries-General were in turn European (Kurt Waldheim), Latin-American (Javier Perez de Cuellar) and African (Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Kofi Annan). Ban Ki-moon conducted the best campaign. He did so over a period of several years in all the regions of the world and he was careful not to neglect the countries of the South which are members of the Non-Aligned Movement. The growing influence of this group, which comprises 114 members, played a major part in Ban Ki-moon's success.

The rift between the superpower USA and the other members of the UN, evident since the Iraq war in 2003, remained decisive throughout 2006, as did the emerging rivalry between the USA and China. Although all permanent members of the Security Council had to reach agreement on the Korean candidate, it was above all the agreement between the three most powerful members – the United States, China and the Russian Federation – that made the election of the Korean candidate possible. The new Secretary General's mandate begins in a political context marked by major regional crises (Middle East, Lebanon, Sudan, Iran, Korea). He will

have to overcome these rifts, gain the trust of the actors and in so doing build up the UN's credibility.

The new Secretary-General's priorities

The new Secretary-General soon presented his own interpretation of his mandate and gently distanced himself from his predecessor, but without giving the impression that everything was going to be different. He has sought to establish contacts with UN staff members, representatives of the States and the press. He has simplified the rhetoric and style and has set new political priorities:

- Instead of talking about reforms, Ban Ki-moon stresses the need to build bridges, to restore confidence and to strengthen the UN's institutional capacities. To drive this process forward, he attaches importance to the mobility of employees, exchanges between the field and headquarters, the introduction of new IT instruments and in particular teamwork. He has ideas about how to restructure the Secretariat, and has already started implementing them. But in his view a change of culture towards more results-oriented working methods is equally decisive.
- Ban Ki-moon is increasingly focusing his political attention on specific problem solving. He refers to the role of the UN in numerous regional crises, particularly in Africa, (Darfur, Congo, Somalia) and in the Middle East.

- He is concentrating on the management of peace operations, which have grown disproportionately, and has proposed a restructuring of the Secretariat in this area as well as in that of disarmament. At the same time he stresses the importance of conflict prevention.
- Finally, Ban Ki-moon stresses the crucial importance of the Millennium Goals and of the fight against AIDS. He has indicated on several occasions that environmental and health issues will be more important for him.

Switzerland supports Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his difficult task of strengthening the UN and of increasing its efficiency and effectiveness while strongly stressing the need for dialogue between members and between the different parts of the UN system. This was the message that the Federal Council conveyed to the new Secretary-General of the UN when he paid his first official working visit to Bern on 19 April 2007. The Federal Council, which was represented by the President of the Confederation, Micheline Calmy-Rey, accompanied by Federal Councillors Pascal Couchepin and Samuel Schmid, received Ban Ki-moon for official talks followed by a working dinner, which was attended by the Chairpersons of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the National Council and of the Council of States, Luzi Stamm and Philipp Stähelin.

IMPLEMENTATION OF UN REFORMS

After agreement on UN reforms had been reached at the 2005 World Summit, and following the creation of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission as new UN instruments, the reform process proceeded in 2006. However, Member States displayed less enthusiasm, and media attention considerably diminished compared to 2005 when the Panel of Eminent Persons presented its reports and the Secretary-General put forward his own proposals. Despite a slowdown in the pace of reforms, the period leading up to the end of the term of office of Secretary-General Kofi Annan was characterised by the pursuit of joint efforts relating to the administration and management of the UN and in various operational areas. Although they are not spectacular in nature, the measures envisaged in these areas are nonetheless important in terms of their objectives and practical impacts. The Federal Council is closely monitoring the progress of the ongoing reform process, which will enable the UN to continue to function as a valuable instrument at the service of its Member States, including Switzerland.

The new instruments

In 2005 and 2006, the creation of the Human Rights Council to replace the former Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, and the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, were rightly regarded as tangible manifestations of

the capacity of the UN to implement reforms. However, the fact that the proposed enlargement of the UN Security Council was blocked illustrates that the Member States continue to find it difficult to reach fundamental agreement on the institutional reform of the UN. Beyond their symbolic value, the new institutions are confronted with the difficult task of implementing their specific working methods and internal instruments within a framework of intergovernmental co-operation characterised by divisions between their members, and by competition between international organisations.

The Human Rights Council

In accordance with Resolution 60/251 of the UN General Assembly, the inaugural session of the UN Human Rights Council was opened on 19 June 2006 in Geneva, thereby formally launching the creation of this new UN body. This historic occasion was attended by more than 80 ministers and leading figures, including UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, President of the UN General Assembly Jan Eliasson, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, the head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Micheline Calmy-Rey, and numerous foreign ministers. In close co-operation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations in Geneva, the Geneva authorities and representatives of civil society, Switzerland organised a variety of festive activities to mark this occasion and under-

score the significance of this reform for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the expectations raised by it.

For its first year, the Council appointed Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba (the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva) as its President, while the Swiss Permanent Representative, Ambassador Blaise Godet, was chosen as one of the four vice presidents of the Human Rights Council.

Since June 2006, the Human Rights Council has held four ordinary and four extraordinary sessions up to the time of writing. The ordinary sessions have provided opportunities to hold substantial debates as well as to closely examine the reports submitted by special rapporteurs responsible for specific themes and countries. The Council has also been able to adopt more than fifty resolutions by consensus or vote.

During its first session (June 2006), the Human Rights Council adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was co-authored by Switzerland. This Convention, which was also adopted by the UN General Assembly, is now ready for signature. The Federal Council has taken the necessary steps so that a decision can be taken regarding the signature of this document as soon as possible. During the same

session, the Human Rights Council also adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was also co-authored by Switzerland. By contrast with the Convention on Enforced Disappearance, the UN General Assembly has not yet adopted this important declaration, since a number of countries – including Canada and the USA – have requested a further review of the text.

The second ordinary session of the Human Rights Council (September 2006) provided opportunities for open and constructive dialogue with all special rapporteurs. More than 40 specific situations (special procedures) relating to the promotion and protection of human rights were examined at the thematic level as well as at country level. The lengthier debates permitted a considerably more substantial examination of each case than had been possible during the annual sessions of the former Commission on Human Rights.

The third ordinary session (December 2006) was essentially devoted to the institutional consolidation of the Human Rights Council. During its first year of existence, the Human Rights Council needed to decide on its rules of procedure, its schedule of activities, its agenda, its complaints mechanism, the replacement of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, its procedures and the pursuit of the mandates of the special rapporteurs it inherited from the Commission on Human Rights. Above all, the Council had

to define and adopt the methodologies of its mechanism for universal periodic reviews. This new mechanism, which permits a periodical evaluation of all Member States of the United Nations, represents one of the most significant changes brought about following the creation of the Human Rights Council.

The fourth ordinary session (March 2007), which commenced with a meeting at the ministerial level, was opened by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Micheline Calmy-Rey, and was attended by more than 30 foreign ministers, justice ministers and human rights

ministers. The Council's special rapporteurs were able to present their latest reports, and substantial debates were held with the participation of a large number of representatives of civil society.

In accordance with its new prerogatives, the Human Rights Council also convened four extraordinary sessions to deal with cases of grave violations of human rights. These sessions, all of which were convened at very short notice, dealt with the situations in Palestine (July and November 2006), Lebanon (August 2006) and Sudan / Darfur (December 2006). At the conclusion of each

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HAITI: Members of the UN Mission together with local volunteers spend a rainy night vote counting after the parliamentary elections. *The United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)* was created in 2004 due to the poor security situation. The deployment includes about 6,800 soldiers and 1,700 police officers.

session, the Council decided to send expert groups entrusted with the mandate of reporting back to the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the next ordinary session.

The creation of the Human Rights Council and the subsequent convening of a series of ordinary and extraordinary sessions in rapid succession, had a direct influence on the activities of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York. The question of how the two subsidiary bodies of the UN General Assembly are to position themselves to one another in the future in terms of both agenda and hierarchy, has still not been resolved. Those states that have most consistently expressed their opposition to the proposal that the Human Rights Council should become a main UN body want to subordinate the Council to the Third Committee as clearly as possible. Several weeks of negotiations were necessary to determine where the debate on the first report of the Human Rights Council would be held. In the end a compromise was reached: the report was debated both in the plenum of the General Assembly and by the Third Committee.

As a consequence of the confusion that arose during the transitional phase, a variety of issues were dealt with virtually simultaneously in both Geneva and New York, and the outcome was not always the same. At the political level, various states emerged from the second session

of the Human Rights Council in a stronger position, and presented resolutions to the Third Committee dealing with the human rights situations in the USA and Canada, as a reaction to the country resolutions presented by the EU, the USA and Canada concerning North Korea, Uzbekistan, Iran, Myanmar and Belarus. Furthermore, in the Third Committee a resolution was adopted that was presented by Belarus and Uzbekistan and called for the promotion of dialogue aimed at abolishing country resolutions. As usual, country resolutions were the cause of the most tense sessions of the Third Committee. Whether we have come a step closer to the definitive disappearance of country resolutions in 2006, as some of our like-minded states are predicting, remains to be seen. In connection with dealing with country situations, the interactions between the Security Council and the Human Rights Council will yield plenty of material for discussion in the future, as the example of Myanmar at the beginning of 2007 clearly indicated.

Among the Member States of the Human Rights Council there are some countries that do not have diplomatic representation in Geneva. As host nation, Switzerland is committed to providing these countries with the necessary premises and facilities. For this purpose, office space was reserved and fitted out in the Varembe complex, which is owned by the Building Foundation for International Organisations.

For non-governmental organisations active in the area of human rights, the establishment of the Human Rights Council in Geneva gives rise to a variety of new challenges. The semi-permanent nature of the Council and the implementation of its internal procedures represent a quantitative and qualitative leap in commitment by NGOs active in this area. A study carried out by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to catalogue these new challenges and identify potential measures to facilitate the involvement of NGOs in the activities of the Human Rights Council, emphasised the importance of access to information and the provision of support when it comes to dealing with practical matters ranging from the issue of visas to questions relating to accommodation.

The Human Rights Council has been functioning for less than a year, and until it has succeeded in defining and formally adopting its methods and tools, attempting to make an assessment of its activities and achievements would be somewhat premature. It turns out, however, that thanks to the innovations it can foster and the new procedures that are currently in preparation, it has the capacity to significantly strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights within the multilateral system. The extraordinary sessions have clearly demonstrated that the Council is able to respond quickly to urgent situations. The greatly extended nature of the activities of the Human Rights Council means that

it can be in session almost permanently.

In order to improve the effectiveness of the Human Rights Council, its Member States need to continue to resolutely commit themselves to further enhance co-operation through dialogue. Activities in the past have shown that the differences between the UN Member States relating to human rights issues, and which have come to the fore again during all the major conferences held in recent years (e.g. the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna, or the 2001 World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban), as well as at the UN General Assembly, cannot be overcome solely by establishing a Human Rights Council to replace the former Commission.

Switzerland will be pursuing its active commitment to consolidate this new UN institution, and will continue to do everything in its power to ensure that the Council is able to benefit from the best possible working conditions in Geneva.

Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission was created at the end of 2005, and commenced its activities in 2006. The first two countries on its agenda were Sierra Leone and Burundi, and two sessions were convened for each country, at which the Commission discussed the respective national peace building plans and thematic priorities. Both countries

concerned were very actively involved and, in addition to the UN, the World Bank also actively participated in the discussions.

The results of the activities of the Commission in its first year may be assessed as fundamentally positive and constructive. As was to be expected, a number of difficulties had to be overcome in the early stage:

- The Peacebuilding Support Office suffered from a severe shortage of personnel until the end of the year, and was thus only able to support the Commission's activities to a limited extent
- The debates on the applicable rules and procedures at meetings of the Commission proved to be extremely time-consuming, though agreement has now been reached on most of the associated issues
- The precise role of members of the Commission, the countries on its agenda and the purpose of the Peacebuilding Fund initially gave rise to a number of misunderstandings, but here, too, most of these have been successfully dealt with in the course of its first sessions.

In 2007, the Peacebuilding Commission should be able to benefit from a smoothly functioning Peacebuilding Support Office, and add two more countries to its agenda. Ban Ki-moon, the new Secretary-General, has announced that the Peacebuilding Support Office is to

be transferred from his Executive Office to the Department for Political Affairs. The positive or negative impacts of this move will become apparent in the course of the year.

The creation of the Peacebuilding Commission was one of Switzerland's priorities in the UN reform process. It represents a response to a clearly identified need, namely to facilitate the on-site implementation of integrated strategies for the transitional phase between the settlement of a conflict and the commencement of development activities. Switzerland is not a member of the Organisational Committee of the Commission, and is thus anxious to ensure that it is not excluded from debates and activities relating to peacebuilding. Since memberships for each of the seven seats on the Organisational Committee of the Commission were only determined for one year for the ECOSOC and General Assembly categories, negotiations on this issue will have to be re-initiated. Although Switzerland would in fact be able to bid for a seat in the Commission under the General Assembly category, it has a more realistic chance of becoming a member once it is a member of ECOSOC (from 2011).

Switzerland is determined to ensure that the capacities of the UN in the area of peacebuilding are increased through the most efficient measures possible, including the expansion of information technology. For this reason, Switzerland

is supporting a pilot project of the Harvard University Program for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, which is aimed at creating an interactive information and communication portal for professional peacebuilding players. The objective is to improve information management and communication between the relevant institutional players in the field and at the head office with the least possible outlay. This project was initiated in autumn 2006 and is being implemented in close co-operation with all important UN institutions, and in particular the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Switzerland also has an interest in ensuring that 'International Geneva' is not excluded from the activities of the UN in this area, and in view of this, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GSCP) implemented a joint 'Peacebuilding Commission and International Geneva' project for the purpose of setting up a Peacebuilding Commission contact group comprising representatives of governments and international non-governmental organisations in order to mobilise involved interest groups in Geneva and offer specific services to support the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Reforms in peacekeeping and disarmament

In performing its mandates in the areas of international peacekeeping and

security, the UN is required to deal with numerous crisis situations and conflicts. As the 2005 report of the Human Security Center underscores, it is now widely recognised that the actions of the UN, notably the peacekeeping missions it deploys in crisis regions, make a significant contribution to reducing the number of ongoing conflicts throughout the world.

Over the past few years, the peacekeeping activities of the UN have increased to an unprecedented degree. Staff numbers totalling almost 130,000 have been approved by the Security Council for its eighteen peace missions. There are now almost 100,000 persons deployed in the field that have been provided by 114 troop-contributing countries. The annual cost these operations is close to 5.7 million US dollars. This means that the previous record dating from the 1990s, with the deployment of some 77,000 personnel, has clearly been surpassed. This growth in personnel is even more remarkable if one considers the situation in the second half of the 1990s, during which the setbacks suffered in Somalia (1993), Rwanda (1994) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995) gave rise to a decline in the number of missions and deployed personnel.

The UN is constantly making adjustments and improvements in order to face the challenges associated with peacekeeping and the complex nature of the multi-faceted mandates it is re-

quired to perform today. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations was created in 1992 in order to bring together the whole range of services covered by the definition of the UN's mandate, i.e. the preparation, deployment and support of peacekeeping missions. This department was headed by Kofi Annan before he became UN Secretary-General in 1997. He subsequently commissioned the 'Brahimi Report' in 2000, which contained a number of recommendations concerning measures to be taken relating to doctrine and the decision-making process, as well as to facilitate the rapid deployment of peacekeeping missions. A considerable number of the proposed reforms have meanwhile been implemented, most notably the increase in the number of personnel and improvements in the training of deployed personnel at the UN headquarters in New York. A new programme of reforms entitled 'Peacekeeping operations 2010' was initiated in 2006. It examines the improvements that are required in the area of peacekeeping, in particular relating to doctrine, personnel, resources, organisation and the necessary partners to ensure the successful implementation of missions. It pays close attention to smooth co-operation between all components – armed forces, police, civilian experts, humanitarian and development aid players – of peacekeeping missions in order to secure internal coherence.

Shortly after he took over as Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon expressed his

desire to contribute to reform the UN peacekeeping system by proposing a re-organisation of the corresponding secretariat. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is to be divided into two sections, one of which will retain the above name, while the other will be called Department of Logistical Support. The objective is to strengthen the operational capacity and increase support for missions in the field. This proposal, which in Switzerland's view lies within the competency of the Secretary-General to organise the secretariat in a manner he regards as appropriate – as long as it is within the scope of the budget approved by the UN Member States – constitutes a welcome signal that Ban Ki-moon intends to pay close attention to the area of peacekeeping. His proposal was subsequently approved by the General Assembly in March 2007 following a series of difficult discussions.

Switzerland has been required to make financial contributions towards peacekeeping operations since it became a member of the UN in 2002, and this segment now constitutes the largest proportion of our mandatory financial contribution to the United Nations, with the sum of 86 million Swiss francs earmarked for this purpose in the 2007 federal budget. In 2003, Switzerland became a member of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and was thus able to participate in deliberations among UN Member States that contribute troops to peacekeeping operations. Despite the

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CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Local leaders in traditional costumes give their blessing at the beginning of a disarmament process supported by the *UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)*. The UN deployment began in 2004. UNOCI's mandate includes monitoring the cessation of hostilities. The peace mission involves around 8,000 soldiers and 1,200 police officers.

intentions announced at the time Switzerland joined the Special Committee, the number of personnel placed at the disposal of UN peacekeeping missions by our country – whether in the form of military observers, landmine disposal experts, civilian police officers or civilian experts – has not increased in the course of the past few years. While its contributions towards UN peacekeeping operations remain modest in terms of personnel, Switzerland's financial contributions in this area are nonetheless considerable.

Switzerland endeavours to make useful contributions towards UN peacekeeping activities, however, by offering its support in the formulation of policies aimed at dealing with new challenges. A recent example is its support for the Security Management Initiative for UN Missions and other operations in the field launched by the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University in co-operation with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. In addition, Switzerland is helping increase capacities for local peacekeeping operations by sending specialised instructors

to training centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ghana, and thus contributing to ease the burden on the UN.

In addition to its broad-ranging peacekeeping activities, the UN also plays an active role in the area of disarmament. In 1982 it established a Department for Disarmament Affairs, which has continued to provide co-ordination and support for the activities of Member States at this high institutional level until today (with the exception of a brief period during which it functioned as a Centre).

Efforts to deal with the current challenges in the areas of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and the problem of small arms have been insufficiently effective to date, mainly because armament control has suffered from a generally unfavourable international climate for a number of years. In view of this, the new Secretary-General has also proposed restructuring measures in this area, which have already been approved by the UN General Assembly. A new Office of Disarmament directly attached to the Secretary-General will replace the current Department of Disarmament Affairs, thus forming an integral part of the political decision-making process at the highest administrative level.

Switzerland supported these efforts since the personal involvement of the Secretary-General ensures that disarmament will remain a priority within the UN system in the future. Furthermore,

the restructuring measures will not have any influence on the operation of the Office of the United Nations in Geneva or on the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

Increased capacities in the area of mediation

The considerable financial contributions to peacekeeping activities have become necessary due to the obligation on the part of the United Nations to protect populations affected by conflicts and to support efforts to bring peace processes to a successful conclusion. The amounts spent could however be put to more effective use, if they could be invested in the sustainable development of the countries concerned instead of in efforts to restore peace and stability following the outbreak of conflicts. Within the UN, increasing attention is being paid to conflict prevention.

The prevention of armed conflicts, the provision of good services and the mediation of peace talks are among the fundamental obligations laid down in the UN Charter. Significant progress has been achieved over the past few years at both the legislative and the institutional level, but unfortunately a gulf still exists between intention and reality. In view of this, the Heads of State and Government agreed at the World Summit in September 2005 that the capacities of the United Nations in this area need to be strengthened.

As a first step in this direction, Secretary-General Kofi Annan set up a Mediation Support Unit in 2006 that is attached to the Department of Political Affairs. The duties of this new unit include the support and education of mediators in international and internal conflicts, the formulation of standards and guidelines, the evaluation of lessons learned and the identification of best practices. In addition, it should be able to deploy experienced mediators in the field at very short notice.

As a country that has a tradition of providing mediation and good services, Switzerland supported the creation of the new Mediation Support Unit with a contribution of 400,000 US dollars in 2006, and is thus one of the main sponsors of this initiative. It is also making substantial contributions in other ways, for example by evaluating mediation processes, training mediators and supporting the creation of 'UN Peacemaker', an Internet-based platform for professional negotiators, interested scientific groups and experts. In conflict regions, Switzerland supported the mediation efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Nepal both financially and through the provision of personnel. Switzerland was thus able to make a contribution towards the conclusion of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was signed by the government of Nepal and the Maoist rebels on 22 November 2006.

The fight against terrorism and the focal point of sanctions

The fight against terrorism is one of the UN's highest priorities. Since 1963 a total of thirteen international conventions against terrorism have been drawn up within the UN system, and Switzerland has ratified twelve of these. The consultation procedure concerning the ratification of the remaining convention and three amendment protocols (relating to the suppression of terrorist acts against nuclear and maritime safety) was opened on 1 May 2007. Once again, no decisive progress was made in 2006 with respect to the ongoing efforts within the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly to formulate a general international convention against terrorism, which is intended to complete the range of existing legal instruments in this area. The fact that it has not been possible to find a definition of terrorism that is acceptable to all Member States has prevented the approval of this instrument to date.

Over the past few years, the UN Security Council has assumed a leading role in the fight against terrorism, and has passed a number of resolutions and created a variety of institutions, including the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) which was created on the basis of Resolution 1373 (2001), and thirteen Sanctions Committees.

With its approval in September 2006 of the Global Strategy for Fighting Terrorism, the UN General Assembly under-

scored the fact that the entire international community has to take action, and that the fight against terrorism is not something that can be placed solely in the hands of the Security Council and its Committees. For the first time, the UN Member States now have a common strategy against terrorism, the most important element of which is an action plan that lists measures (a) to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, (b) to prevent and combat terrorism, (c) to strengthen capacities in the fight against terrorism, (d) to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this regard and (e) to ensure respect of human rights for all in the fight against terrorism. The development of this strategy results from the decision taken by the Heads of State and Government at the World Summit to combat terrorism in all its forms.

A Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force has been set up with the aim of ensuring that the Global Strategy leads to more effective co-ordination of the broad variety of counter-terrorism activities within the UN. Streamlining these activities, and thus securing more efficient and effective action, will remain a major challenge in the future.

Within the scope of its activities at the UN, Switzerland is especially determined to ensure the proper observance of the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law in the fight against terrorism. For this reason

it strongly advocates the development of targeted sanctions by the Security Council, a preventive instrument the Council also applies in the fight against terrorism.

The instrument of targeted sanctions has increasingly been used since the 1990s. The measures are no longer targeted at an entire nation but at groups of people and specific individuals. They frequently concern political or military decision-makers who are held responsible for endangering international peace and security. The aim is to protect the civilian population, which is already suffering at the hands of a rogue government, to the greatest possible extent against the negative impacts of sanctions. In the fight against terrorism, it is also often the case that companies and business people are the targets of sanctions. Targeted sanctions usually take the form of financial measures such as the freezing of bank assets, restrictions on the trading of certain goods of strategic importance, or travel restrictions. They represent a useful instrument by means of which the international community can secure compliance with resolutions of the Security Council. UN Member States are obliged under international law to implement sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

Since 1998, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland have contributed towards the re-finement of sanctions through the processes of Interlaken, Bonn/Berlin and

Stockholm. In recent years it has become apparent that, in certain cases, sanctions have also been imposed against insufficiently identified persons. Furthermore, they can have a penalising (instead of a preventive) effect without providing the person(s) concerned with procedural guarantees in accordance with national and international legislation. For example, sanction mechanisms do not include an appeal procedure which would guarantee the independent review (in accordance with the provisions of the law) of a decision to add a given person or organisation to a sanctions list. If for this reason the legality of measures resolved by the Security Council is contested before national or international courts of law, the efficiency and credibility of the instrument of sanctions are ultimately called in question. In December 2006 the European Court of Justice declared the EU procedure of using sanctions lists to be unlawful due to the lack of adequate legal guarantees.

In view of this, Switzerland, Germany and Sweden launched a joint 'Listing/De-listing Initiative' aimed at guaranteeing fair and transparent hearings for persons targeted by sanctions, in terms of both addition to and removal from sanctions lists. The Watson Institute at Brown University, Rhode Island (USA), was subsequently entrusted with the task of preparing a report on targeted sanctions and the right to fair and transparent proceedings, and the findings of this study were presented to the Security

Council in spring 2006. Switzerland has also included the issue of the sanctions' regime in the initiative on the improvement of the working methods of the Security Council.

The various efforts of Switzerland and its partners are beginning to bear fruit. At the end of November 2006, the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee – 1267 amended its guidelines and made improvements relating to the addition of entities and individuals to sanction lists. In future, states that request a listing have to provide a statement of case containing the necessary information. The country of residence or of citizenship of newly listed persons or entities are informed about a listing, but not the person or entity concerned. Unchanged entries are to be displayed after four years and re-assessed at the request of a member of the Committee. In addition, for the first time Resolution 1735 (2006) also calls for possible deletion from the Al-Qaida/Taliban list. In December 2006, the Security Council adopted a joint French/American proposal and with Resolution 1730 (2006) resolved to establish a focal point within the Secretariat (Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch) to receive all de-listing requests. In future, individuals and organisations targeted by sanctions can submit their application for de-listing not only to their place of residence or country of citizenship, but also directly to this focal point. In Switzerland's view, this represents a first step towards fairer

proceedings, but an effective legal remedy and an independent review body are still lacking. Switzerland therefore intends to continue campaigning for a procedure for listing and de-listing private individuals, companies and organisations that meets fundamental legal requirements and the principles of human rights.

UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment

A large number of organisations, specialised agencies, funds and programmes within the UN system are active in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. Efforts are made to avoid the dispersion of funds, to increase the degree of coherence of actions in the field and to promote economies of scale. Based on the approved 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, which included a call for greater coherence in the UN system, Secretary-General Kofi Annan created a High-Level Panel on the UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The panel presented its report entitled 'Delivering as One' to the Secretary-General on 9 November 2006.

The report underscores the central role played by the UN in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, but also points out systemic weaknesses such as the fragmentation of the UN at the country level,

the lack of resources and various uncertainties regarding mandates and the distribution of tasks among the various funds, programmes and organisations within the system. If some of the report's recommendations reflect already initiated processes and widely accepted principles, it also includes numerous new ideas that need to be carefully examined.

Although it was not represented on the panel, Switzerland was involved in the process up to the presentation of the report in a variety of ways: by maintaining periodical contact with the panel's secretariat, by organising a conference on

the co-ordination of donor nations on Mont-Pèlerin in February 2006, by arranging meetings between panel members and the head of the Swiss Mission in New York, through the participation of the Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) at a conference on financing issues organised by the panel, and by preparing a non-paper on co-ordination between UN agencies.

Development area

The recommendations contained in the report can be divided into six groups: the main one focuses on the co-operation between the various units of the UN

system at country level. The title of the report, 'Delivering as One', hints at the main direction in which the often very specific recommendations of this section go. They set out to ensure that the broad range of expertise within the greatly fragmented UN system can continue to be utilised at both the national and the regional levels, and that the various programmes, offices, funds and organisations can function in a uniform manner.

The key elements of a uniform manner of functioning can best be outlined on the basis of the notion of four 'ones': one programme, one head, one budget, one office. The term 'one programme' refers to the idea that all activities of UN institutions in a given country should form integral parts of a coherent whole. A programme framework of this nature also simplifies the interactions between the host country and its administration and the UN agencies. The aim of the recommendations under the term 'one head' is to strengthen the authority of the UN Resident Co-ordinator and make this person responsible for the successful implementation of the entire programme. He or she has to credibly embody the UN in the country concerned both internally and externally. The idea of 'one budget' is to ensure the transparent use of UN funds in the respective host country. And the aim behind the recommendation of 'one office' is to ensure that UN agencies operate under one roof wherever possible, and save costs by using a common infrastructure.

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GENEVA: In the midst of celebrations the newly created UN Human Rights Council convenes for its first session on 19 June 2006 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Corresponding pilot projects are currently being implemented in eight countries, in each case at the explicit request of the respective governments. The findings will form a valuable basis for determining the definitive solution to be used throughout the UN system. The eight states participating in the pilot project include six that also figure on Switzerland's list of priority countries for bilateral development co-operation (Albania, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Vietnam). The other two are Uruguay and the Cape Verde Islands. Switzerland will be keeping a very close eye on these pilot projects through its local representations.

One of the major challenges associated with the implementation of the 'One UN' recommendations concerns the integration into country teams of the various specialised organisations that form part of the UN system but act on a largely autonomous basis (e.g. ILO, WHO, FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO). Switzerland will constantly endeavour to persuade the governing bodies of these organisations that they should actively commit themselves to the proposed reforms and pragmatically integrate themselves into the 'One UN' structure in those countries involved in the pilot project.

The Federal Council attaches great importance to this section of the report. The cited recommendations correspond to the logic behind the reform process that has been driven for many years by

the Resolution of the General Assembly calling for 'Triennial Comprehensive Policy Reviews of operational activities for development of the UN system' (TCPRs), including by Switzerland, which very much hopes that the recommendations proposed in the report will be adopted within the framework of the forthcoming negotiations on the TCPRs resolution at the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly in autumn 2007.

Humanitarian assistance area

The second group of recommendations concerns humanitarian assistance. Here a variety of major reforms had already been implemented before the report was published. The co-ordination of the activities of the many different providers of humanitarian assistance – the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, national agencies, non-governmental organisations – remains a permanent challenge that is therefore regarded as a priority by the new UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, Sir John Holmes.

Other central factors for improving humanitarian assistance were consolidated during the 61st session of the UN General Assembly. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has received promised donations for 2007 amounting to almost 350 million US dollars. Switzerland is offering the CERF 10 million Swiss francs for 2007, which means it is doubling the contribution it made in 2006. In the medium term, the decisive factor will be whether it proves possible to mo-

bilise additional donations for humanitarian aid through the CERF, or whether contributions to the CERF will be made at the expense of other humanitarian organisations and programmes.

After a lengthy period of informal preparatory work in New York, Switzerland has succeeded in including proposals in the corresponding resolutions of ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly calling for a more efficient organisation of the UN humanitarian debate. In particular, the regrouping of central humanitarian resolutions in the Plenary of the General Assembly could give rise to more focused debate. Furthermore, the degree of co-operation and co-ordination between ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly will continue to be improved on the basis of mandates, comparative advantages and the complementary nature of the two bodies.

In its report, the Panel of Eminent Persons emphasises the necessity for the United Nations to improve the co-ordination and the pertinence of its support to governments in the area of prevention of disaster risks. This area concerns operational activities relating to development as well as development aid and the environment. The report thus supports efforts initiated since the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe (Japan) in January 2005, aimed at strengthening the system of the international strategy for disaster reduction.

The objectives of the new system are to improve the coherence of operational activities of the UN in this area, and to intensify dialogue and exchanges of experience at all levels among all involved parties. In view of its traditional involvement in this area, Switzerland was one of the most active states in this process in that it assumed the presidency of the Support Group for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The inaugural session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007, constitutes a decisive effort of our country in that area.

Environment area

The third group of recommendations of the 'Delivering as One' report concerns activities relating to the environment. These are largely based on the recommendations that were approved at the 2002 Global Ministerial Environment Forum and confirmed later in the same year at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and by the UN General Assembly.

The recommendations also reflect the results of a process of the UN General Assembly relating to international environmental governance, which also had its origins in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

The informal consultations of the UN General Assembly on international environmental governance were initiated

by the President of the 60th session of the General Assembly, who assigned a facilitation mandate for this process to the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland and Mexico to the United Nations in New York. The process is based on the realisation that there is a need to additionally improve environmental governance. In this area, a separate process has been initiated for each individual problem, and as a consequence there are now countless institutions, processes and agreements in place. However, there is no sufficiently powerful central authority that allows an overview, to develop high-level strategies and secure coherence, synergies and co-operation. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, the states agreed to search for ways in which UN environmental activities can be carried out more effectively. The main objective is to ensure the co-ordination of environment-related activities of the UN, the clearer formulation of political objectives, the strengthening of scientific co-operation, the more effective implementation of existing agreements and the integration of environmental aspects into the broader framework of sustainable development.

These issues were submitted to all states for discussion in April and June 2006, and in January 2007, within the scope of two rounds of consultation. Once again the states strongly emphasised that international environmental governance is in need of reform, especially in those

areas in which deficits had already been identified in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. However, views differ widely when it comes to deciding how these deficits can be overcome.

Some states propose step-by-step improvements to the existing structures, while others are of the opinion that the existing environmental programme of the United Nations should be upgraded and transformed into a World Environment Organisation. The latter proposal was strongly supported by French President Jacques Chirac, including at a conference held in Paris on 2 and 3 February 2007, which was also attended by a delegation from Switzerland headed by Federal Councillor Moritz Leuenberger.

Finding solutions that can bring about the necessary increase in efficiency in the area of environmental governance and will also be acceptable to a majority of Member States of the UN will not be an easy task. Both chairpersons of the informal consultation process are to draw up a list of proposals for improvements based on the findings of the consultation sessions, and are expected to submit this to the UN General Assembly for debate. In this connection it should be noted that Switzerland succeeded in temporarily supporting the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly by providing an environmental specialist.

Other recommendations

The fourth group of recommendations presented in the 'Delivering as One' report concerns inter-related themes such as equal rights issues and human rights.

Switzerland strongly supports the proposal to amalgamate various units of the UN that are active in the area of equal rights by creating a new institution for the equal rights of men and women and strengthening the position of women in society.

Switzerland will continue to campaign within the governing bodies of funds and programmes in an effort to promote systematic recourse to a rights based planning. Development will be promoted by ensuring that the rights of the target group are guaranteed. Switzerland also wants to support the UN in its efforts to promote the human rights dimension of its activities at country level by deploying human rights experts in certain country teams of the UN.

The fifth group of recommendations in the report concerns far-reaching proposals concerning the reorganisation and the financing of the intergovernmental structures for the governance of the operational activities of the UN. Some states do not support these proposals, and if they are to be implemented, this will call for new negotiations. In Switzerland's view, these negotiations should be conducted separately from those

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LEBANON: The UN Security Council addresses the issue of the war in Lebanon between Hezbollah and Israel. The war erupted on July 14 and lasted 34 days. A total of six UN personnel were killed and six more were wounded during the violence.

processes that are required for the implementation of less controversial parts of the report.

Finally, the sixth group of recommendations concerns issues relating to management and administration. These recommendations are dealt with in the next section of this report.

With the 'Delivering as One' report, the foundations were laid for a debate with which the UN Member States will have to occupy themselves intensively. They

will be able to base this discussion on the proposals by the Secretary-General concerning the structure of the follow-up process. Switzerland is very active in the two processes that are currently the focus of the greatest attention: thanks to its long-term efforts in favour of the TCPR resolution, on which new negotiations are scheduled to take place this year, it is able to influence the implementation of the recommendations concerning UN operational co-operation at the country level; and thanks to the co-chairmanship by its Permanent Rep-

representative to the United Nations in New York it is able to help influence the direction of informal consultations at the UN General Assembly concerning international environmental governance. In both cases, Switzerland is able to pave the way for sometimes small but real reform steps through intensive diplomatic activities on the sidelines, away from the spotlight.

Efforts to be pursued

UN reforms have also been pursued in areas in which the need was not so much for the creation of instruments or new operational capacities, but rather for finding solutions to blocked actions, such as the Security Council enlargement or for making progress with long-term reforms that have not yet been fully implemented and for which efforts thus still need to be pursued.

Enlargement and working methods of the Security Council

While in the past few years intensive debate has taken place concerning the reform of the Security Council, a certain degree of 'reform weariness' appeared to set in during 2006, partly because of the bogged down positions regarding the issue of enlargement. None of the groups that had been formed on this issue – the G-4 (Germany, Brazil, India and Japan) with its proposal for six new permanent and four new non-permanent seats; the 'Uniting for Consensus' group (including Argentina, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Pakistan, Spain,

South Korea) with its model calling for ten new seats with non-permanent status and the possibility of immediate re-election; the African group, calling for six new permanent seats with right of veto, plus five new non-permanent seats – were able to convince a decisive majority that their proposal was the most suitable one. Nonetheless, it is generally agreed that an enlargement of the Security Council, which has only taken place once in its history to date¹, is both necessary and indeed urgent, as was made clear during the debate on the reform of the Security Council on 11 and 12 December 2006 at the UN General Assembly. The discussion largely pursued the familiar lines of argumentation, but the call for more flexibility and readiness to compromise grew somewhat louder. The Member States are displaying increasing disappointment concerning the overwhelming influence of the permanent members of the Security Council on non-transparent decision-making processes, and their understanding of the Security Council's role versus other UN institutions – and in particular towards the General Assembly.

On this occasion Switzerland renewed its commitment in favour of an enlargement of the Security Council, stating that the Council needs to be more representative and should more strongly reflect today's geopolitical realities. At the same time, however, Switzerland went on to emphasise that an enlargement of the Security Council must not interfere

with the latter's efficiency, and any such reform needs to be kept within reasonable bounds. It should also be based on objective criteria such as size of the country and population, contributions in terms of both funding and troops, and on the active role played within the UN system. States that meet these criteria would qualify for a lengthier term of office in the Security Council. This presence should be linked with a strong mechanism for assuring accountability either in the form of a review or the necessity for re-election. Finally, Switzerland strongly reiterated its opposition to the idea of granting veto rights to new members of the Security Council.

With the conclusion of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly, the draft resolutions formally submitted by the three groups cited above became null and void. In view of this and in order to achieve progress in the reform debate, the President of the UN General Assembly initiated a new process at the end of January 2007 involving the Open Ended Working Group for the Reform of the Security Council. At the beginning of May 2007, the five appointed facilitators submitted a report on the following areas of focus: the extent of an enlargement of the Security Council, the issue of regional representation, the issue of the right of veto, categories of membership, working methods and the relationship between the Security Council and the UN General Assembly. The main part of the report focuses on the proposal of an intermedi-

¹ The Security Council was enlarged by four non-permanent seats in 1965 as the result of decolonisation.

ary solution for enlargement. The report proposes an interim solution that could include a third category of non-permanent or semi-permanent seats. Switzerland welcomes an interim solution, since none of the proposed enlargement models proposed up to now will receive the necessary support from Member States. However, a new approach to the enlargement issue calls for flexibility on all sides.

As before, Switzerland regards the improvement of the Security Council's working methods as the main priority. This is based on the view that more transparent working methods and the increased integration of UN Member States into the decision-making process of the Security Council are of greater importance, especially for smaller states, than being able to hold a very occasional seat on the Security Council for a limited period. This deficit could be overcome if the Security Council were to be correspondingly opened. This would also enhance the Council's legitimacy.

Switzerland has thus participated in an initiative on the improvement of the Security Council's working methods, the objectives of which are:

- To create greater transparency in the decision-making process of the Security Council
- To increase the integration of Member States into the activities of the Security Council
- To permit more intensive consultation among the various players
- To permit an examination of lessons learned relating to the implementation of Security Council resolutions
- To restrict the right of veto in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and grave violations of human rights
- To develop a mechanism for protecting people and entities affected by UN sanctions

The draft resolution on the working methods of the Security Council submitted in March 2006 by Switzerland, Costa Rica, Liechtenstein, Jordan and Singapore ('Small Five' or S-5) met with widespread approval among the Member States in terms of its main focus and content. However, many began to link the Council's working methods to the issue of its enlargement, and expressed scepticism regarding a vote on the resolution at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly. Following a careful analysis of the situation, Switzerland and its partners decided not to put the initiative to a vote.

Nevertheless, the dynamic resulting from the S-5 initiative prompted the Security Council to reactivate its Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions, which has based its renewed activities largely on the draft resolution presented by S-5. In July 2006, in a Presidential Note, the Security Council adopted a variety of the proposals put forward by S-5, especially those that call for the increased integration of Member States.

Switzerland is of the view that a first step has thus been taken, but that other steps now have to follow. On the occasion of the debate at the UN General Assembly on 11 and 12 December 2006, a large number of other Member States also officially stated that they expect the Security Council to take further-reaching measures. An improvement of the Security Council's working methods is widely regarded as a prerequisite for securing its efficiency and legitimacy.

A reform of the Security Council is going to remain a very difficult task, but developments in recent months indicate that a large number of Member States are still in favour of such a reform, and in fact regard it as urgent. The question of reform is thus still very much on the table. Switzerland will continue to assume an active role in the debate on this issue, and in the near future will be paying close attention to the implementation of the measures already resolved by the Security Council. In the area of UN sanctions, Switzerland will also continue to work towards the goal of persuading the Sanctions Committees (which are answerable to the Security Council) to develop a listing and de-listing procedure that complies with the law and meets the requirements of human rights.

Reform of ECOSOC

Following the World Summit in 2005, the President of the General Assembly entrusted the Permanent Representative of Belgium and the Permanent Representa-

tive of Mali with the task of conducting a consultation procedure on development issues and strengthening the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). A resolution on development issues was adopted in June 2006² that reiterates the principles expounded in the Outcome Document without going into greater detail.

A second resolution that was negotiated during autumn 2006 led to a reform of the Ministerial Segment of ECOSOC. Two new elements were introduced, namely the Biennial Development Cooperation Forum and the Annual Ministerial Review³.

The Forum sets out to promote participation by high-level representatives, and will deal with the following themes: international co-operation trends in the area of development, the current situation and recommendations aimed at rendering co-operation more efficient. The importance of the Forum lies in its mandate, which is not restricted to the UN system, and means it can function as a valuable forum for fundamental debates on international development co-operation in which both developing and donor nations are equally represented.

The Annual Review will be carried out on a cross-sector basis and will mainly focus on topics that are addressed in all texts that have been approved by UN global conferences on economic and social issues, including development goals resulting from the Millennium Summit. Its

goal will be to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the action plans resulting from conferences, to examine the follow up process of these conferences and to evaluate its impact on the achievement of the objectives. The Annual Review faces the challenge of agreeing on an appropriate description of its themes so that differentiated monitoring will be possible.

Switzerland participated very actively in the negotiation process of this second resolution. Our country has a special interest in the development of ECOSOC, not only because this is a highly important multilateral institution, but also because it convenes every second year in Geneva. This will be the case again in July 2007, when ECOSOC holds its first session in its new form. Another important contribution by Switzerland to the activities of ECOSOC is the support it provides to civil society every year so that the latter can prepare itself for the main session of ECOSOC in the summer and thus actively participate in its debates. ECOSOC also acts as a seam linking the UN system with non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

The integration of Switzerland into the rotation scheme of the Western European and Others Group, which will enable Switzerland to become a member of ECOSOC, is dealt with in the chapter 'Integration of Switzerland in the rotation scheme of the Western Group of ECOSOC'.

Administration, management and supervision, review of mandates

The scope of the activities of the United Nations has constantly broadened over the past ten years. The UN Secretariat, which originally organised conferences to promote peace and security, and secured the ongoing development of provisions of international law, is increasingly performing operational tasks in the complex areas of peace and security, development and human rights. More than half the UN personnel work outside its headquarters. The number of troops deployed in UN peacekeeping operations has increased tenfold in the course of the past decade, while in the same period the number of UN personnel has increased from 5,800 (in 1986) to 8,900 (in 2006). The management and governance structures, however, have remained largely unchanged since the UN was formally established.

Within the UN it is extremely difficult to optimise processes and implement reforms that are called for as the result of constant reviews of existing strategies and structures. The reasons for this are clear and can be illustrated by analysing the organisation as if it were a large company. The UN has a 'board of directors' with 192 members, who frequently act in their own personal interest and in so doing often exceed their own competencies; it has a CEO whose competencies are severely restricted in many management areas, and it employs close to 100,000 staff who are spread through-

² A/RES/60/265

³ A/RES/61/16

out the world, many of whom have to perform their duties in conflict regions at the risk of losing their lives and in the absence of law and order.

The rapid transformation in the sphere of activities of the UN resulted in a constant need for reforms, which grew particularly acute in the era of Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In addition a number of scandals came to light that revealed major shortcomings in the areas of management and supervision. As more and more irregularities came to light – for example, corruption (Oil for Food Programme in Iraq), mismanagement (irregularities in the area of procurement) and criminal deeds (sex crimes committed by UN troops, primarily in Africa) – the reputation of the UN appeared to be at risk.

In his report published in 2006 entitled ‘Investing in the United Nations’⁴, Kofi Annan outlined his vision of a more efficient, more effective and more transparent UN, in which the management operates in accordance with high ethical principles, and the Member States have to fully account for all deployed resources. These proposals met with the approval of the Member States – with the exception of those aimed at improving the governance of Member States. As expected, no consensus could be reached for pursuing them further. Small Member States and developing countries opposed any reform of the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly, which is responsible

for budget and management issues, defending its universal composition. Until the Fifth Committee fundamentally reconsiders its role and working methods, it will be impossible to fully implement any reforms. While in a private company the board of directors is restricted to its strategic role, i.e. the CEO is essentially responsible for the implementation of its strategies, the distinction of roles and competencies between the Secretary-General and the Member States is much less clearly defined. The ongoing review of mandates that are older than 5 years perfectly illustrates this situation.

Since the UN was founded, the Member States have entrusted a total of around 10,000 mandates to the three most important UN bodies (General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC). In the same way as the decisions of a board of directors, these mandates should guide in the required direction without unduly restricting the freedom of action of the management board. However many Member States regard mandates as concrete operational resolutions for which the management effectively bears responsibility. This unclear separation of competencies makes a comprehensive and transparent obligation of accountability on the part of the Secretariat towards the Member States impossible, and this in turn prevents the formation of mutual trust, which ideally has to exist not only between the Secretariat and the Member States, but also between the Member States themselves, and

above all between donor and recipient states.

The debates on the reform measures presented by the Secretary-General have demonstrated that a purely technical discussion among the Member States appears to be out of the question at this time. The recipient states gathered under the heading G 77 are worried that any reform, however technical in nature, would either reduce the resources allocated to them (especially in the area of development) or result in a loss of political power. As a consequence of this mistrust and politicisation, it has not been possible to implement the ‘win-win’ situation that applies in the area of management reform.

Initial statements by the new Secretary-General indicate that he intends to push ahead with the reform efforts initiated by his predecessor in the area of management. With respect to personnel, his ideas match those of his predecessor. Ban Ki-moon, in line with the changing demands placed on the UN, wants to increase the mobility of UN personnel as soon as possible in order to guarantee their flexible deployment. Furthermore, there is currently a lack of career opportunities for personnel in the field, since many middle management employees cling to their jobs at head office (above all in New York) due to the lack of mobility regulations to date. The harmonisation of employment conditions would make it possible to bridge the gap that

⁴ Investing in the United Nations: for a Stronger Organization Worldwide, Report of the Secretary-General (2006), UN doc. A/60/692

has opened up over the past few years between headquarters and the field.

As a rule, reforms in the area of human resources tend to be especially difficult. In the case of many Member States, internal interests predominate and thus make it difficult to reach consensus. Far-reaching measures are out of the question, and a more balanced solution thus has to be found. It is therefore hardly surprising that the General Assembly rejected the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of a staff buy-out programme for UN personnel.

It appears unlikely that the Member States will be able to agree within the next few months on the reform measures initiated at the 2005 World Summit. Management reform remains a process to be unfolded in small steps on each of which the Member States have to agree in the course of lengthy negotiations. However, it offers an opportunity to restore the severely damaged trust among Member States and between the Secretariat and recipient states – if it proves possible to separate this area of reform from those efforts that have been politicised.

Switzerland attaches great importance to secretariat and management reforms. As a contributor of significant funds, it is actively campaigning for implementation without delay of the decided measures. As a member of an informal group of the 15 leading contributors to the UN (the

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:

Votes are checked in a make-shift polling station in Kinshasa. On 30 July 2006, the almost 17,000 soldiers of the *UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)* supported by 2,000 EUFOR troops together with local forces ensured the smooth running of the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. MONUC is currently the largest UN peacekeeping deployment. The Mission began in 1999.

'Geneva Group'), Switzerland also initiated a variety of deliberations on ways to improve governance and oversight structures within the UN. As for management reform throughout the UN, Switzerland considers it important to circulate, with as little delay as possible, through formal

and informal networks, the experiences and deliberations of Member States during the decision-making processes as well as those of the Secretariat during the implementation phase.

In accordance with the scale of assessment for the period from 2007 to 2009 that was approved at the end of 2006, the statutory contribution to be paid by Switzerland has increased slightly from 1.197% to 1.216%. This means that, with an anticipated ordinary UN⁵ annual budget of around 7 billion US dollars, Switzerland's statutory annual contribution will amount to 126 million Swiss francs.

Moves in a new direction

The efforts on the part of the UN to encourage dialogue between cultures and civilisations, and promote democracy throughout the world within the scope of the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, constitute moves in a new direction that are also of interest to Switzerland.

Alliance of civilisations

The tensions that have arisen in relations between the West and the Moslem world in the course of the past few years following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and the crises in the Middle East have given rise to growing concerns within the UN and among its Member States. The harmful influence of these tensions on international relations and multilateral co-operation must not be underestimated. The 'cartoon affair' and the widespread violence that resulted from it at the beginning of 2006 clearly demonstrated the harmful potential of these tensions for international peace and security.

The initiative for an 'Alliance of Civilisations' was launched in July 2005 by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in response to these concerns. Promoted by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, it is also being sponsored by Turkey. In the same year, the Secretary-General entrusted a High-Level Panel with the task of preparing a report containing analyses and recommendations concerning existing and perceived opposing forces between civilisations. The panel comprised 20 figures from all over the world, including former Iranian President Mohammed Khatami and Archbishop Desmond Tutu from South Africa.

On 13 November 2006 the panel handed over its report to the UN Secretary-General in Istanbul. Among others, it contains recommendations in the areas of education, youth work, immigration and the media. Most of these are addressed to local (including non-governmental) players, as well as to governments, NGOs, the UN System and society in general. Their implementation requires that partnerships be created, by means of which individual initiatives can be integrated into networks. To facilitate implementation, the report proposes the appointment of a 'High Representative for the Alliance of Civilisations', who would have his or her own small secretariat. The High Representative – former President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio – was appointed on 26 April 2007, and

Switzerland has already established a good working relationship with him.

The report was presented to the UN General Assembly on 18 December 2006 by the retiring Secretary-General together with the Prime Ministers of Turkey and Spain. The President of the UN General Assembly also initiated an informal debate on this topic on 10 and 11 May 2007.

Switzerland is observing this initiative with a great deal of interest and has meanwhile become a member of the 'Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilisations'. It is also currently examining how it can most effectively support the Alliance and the implementation of the report, and hopes for concrete results during the next session of the General Assembly.

⁵ The overall UN budget comprises an ordinary component, a component for peacekeeping missions, a component for the International Criminal Tribunals (former Yugoslavia and Rwanda) and a component for the renovation of the headquarters in New York (Capital Master Plan). Please refer to the appendix 1 for further details.

Promotion of democracy

The UN Charter does not make explicit reference to the notion of democracy, and the presentation of an 'agenda for democratisation' by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 1996 had not been further pursued by Member States. The recognition that the promotion of democracy cited in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document is an integral part of the fundamental activities of the UN constitutes therefore a positive development. The promotion of democracy is distributed over a variety of funds and programmes.

The UN Department of Political Affairs has an Electoral Division which assists Member States and UN peacekeeping missions with the organisation of elections. Last year, for example, the Electoral Unit organised elections in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is responsible for the promotion of democracy in a large number of countries, and locally assists with the formation of democratic institutions and the organisation of elections. UNDP supports parliament in roughly one in three developing countries, and is involved in an election somewhere in the world approximately every two weeks. Switzerland paid contributions to UNDP, for example to cover election costs in Afghanistan or to finance the High Representative for Elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

The UN Democracy Fund was created by the UN Secretary-General in 2005. Its purpose is to support world-wide projects for the promotion of democratic institutions and governance. In 2006 it supported a total of 125 projects to the tune of 36 million US dollars. The fund is based on voluntary contributions, and currently amounts to 65 million US dollars. Switzerland has not made any contributions to date.

In addition to the above three institutions there are also various other initiatives of Member States aimed at promoting democracy, for example the countries of the 'Community of Democracies' and the '6th International Conference on New and Restored Democracies'. These groups are not attached to the UN, but they often work closely together with various UN institutions. Switzerland is a member of the 'Community of Democracies', and last year it also participated in the '6th International Conference of New and Restored Democracies' in Doha.

SWITZERLAND AS A COMMITTED PLAYER AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Five years after it became a member of the United Nations, Switzerland has established itself within the system and in the reform process as a player with a recognisable profile, a country that is mindful of general interests, that takes its commitments seriously, and is credible, constructive and professional. Its ideas and initiatives are listened to

and generally appreciated. Switzerland can be counted among the most active states at present, especially in its declared priority areas – human rights, working methods of the Security Council, rule of law in the implementation of sanctions, internal management and supervision, sustainable development and operational coherence, conflict prevention and resolution.

Switzerland was one of the leaders in the process that led to the creation of

the Human Rights Council in Geneva, a commitment that was acknowledged by the election of our country to this institution, and which is being pursued in an effort to promote institutional consolidation in the Council. In many areas, especially that of development, Switzerland is attempting to build bridges between the North and the South, which has led to a mandate to facilitate the improvement of international environmental governance – a mandate that is to be pursued in 2007. The accession of

Switzerland to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2011 will be a further occasion for us to underscore our role as a player in the area of development.

As a provider of significant funds, alongside other major contributors Switzerland is campaigning for an effective and responsible UN. With its initiative calling for an improvement of the working methods of the UN Security Council, which has already produced initial

results and needs to be pursued with determination, Switzerland has spoken out for the first time on issues concerning the prerogatives of members of the Security Council and has successfully explained its motivations. In the same way as with the role played by Switzerland in the process of general UN reforms, this initiative demonstrates that a country like Switzerland which is geo-politically isolated and does not belong to any major alliance, needs to work together with like-minded states in a variety of regions

(generally with Member States of the European Union or in groups formed by Canada, Australia and New Zealand, but also with moderate countries of South America, Asia and Africa) to initiate processes and develop ideas. It is only by gathering such a 'critical mass' for an initiative that Switzerland is able to influence important processes.

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LEBANON: The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1701 on 11 August 2006. The draft proposed by the USA and France called among other things for an immediate ceasefire and the stationing of 15,000 Lebanese soldiers and 15,000 UN Blue Helmets to monitor the truce.

The *United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)* is a UN observer mission which began in 1978 and is now one of the longest-standing of all UN observer missions.

MAIN ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF SWITZERLAND'S HOST COUNTRY POLICY

Switzerland has a long tradition as host country to a variety of international organisations and conferences. Headquarters agreements have been concluded with 25 organisations, and taxation agreements with six quasi-intergovernmental organisations. Many other bodies including various programmes and the secretariats of international conventions, and numerous non-governmental organisations also have their headquarters in Switzerland.

Most international organisations and institutions in Switzerland, notably the Eu-

ropean seat of the United Nations, are in Geneva. Together with New York, Geneva is one of the two most important centres of multilateral cooperation in the world. 157 foreign nations, including Switzerland itself, maintain permanent missions in what has become known as International Geneva. Each year Geneva hosts several thousand international meetings and conferences, in which tens of thousands of delegates participate.

Politically, the international role of Geneva enables Switzerland to have an influence in the world far greater than can

be justified by its relative importance in international relations. This additional stature helps Switzerland to achieve its foreign policy objectives. The presence of so many intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations also has a positive impact on the Swiss economy.



The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, inaugurates the new headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNAIDS Programme in Geneva, in November 2006.



THE CHALLENGES FOR SWITZERLAND AS HOST COUNTRY AND MEASURES TAKEN

Given the fierce international competition, there is no reason to suppose that Geneva's role as a centre of international cooperation is in any way lastingly guaranteed. The Swiss authorities, and in particular the federal government, must therefore constantly strive to maintain this important platform of Swiss foreign policy.

The host country policy formulated by the Federal Council is focused on specific areas of activity and aims to develop further Switzerland's attractiveness as a location through the creation of synergies. In addition, Geneva offers especially favourable conditions to the international organisations active in the following areas: peace, security and disarmament; humanitarian questions and human rights; health; labour and economy, trade and science; sustainable development and environmental protection.

Federal Act on Switzerland as a host country

In view of the importance of the host country policy, the Federal Council has felt it necessary to codify and consolidate the relevant procedures and to regulate the main tools of this policy in a single Act. On 13 September 2006 therefore, it submitted a Message to Parliament concerning new legislation on the privileges, immunities and facilities, as well as financial assistance which Switzerland offers as host country (Federal Act on Switzerland as a host country)⁶. This Act provides a unified legal basis, bringing

⁶ FF 2006 7603 (BBI 2006 8017)

together all the existing legal provisions in the area of host country policy in such a way as to allow decisions to be taken in line with the government's constitutional responsibilities. It defines the potential beneficiaries of privileges, immunities and facilities as well as financial assistance, in a framework determined by international law, and the conditions under which a particular status and financial assistance can be granted.

Infrastructure and finance

As host country it is very much in Switzerland's interest to ensure the best possible working conditions for the international organisations based on Swiss territory. Among other things this means making sure that there is enough suitable office space. A specific real estate policy that makes this possible is therefore one of the pillars of a successful host country policy.

International organisations are assisted in the acquisition of locations in Geneva by the Building Foundation for International Organisations (FIPOI), a private law foundation established in 1964 by the Swiss government and the Canton of Geneva. The purpose of FIPOI, as set out in its statutes, is to help international organisations, and in exceptional cases non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to find suitable and attractive premises in Geneva.

The funds necessary for carrying out its mission are made available to the Foun-

ation by the federal government in the form of an interest-free loan repayable within 50 years, and by canton Geneva in the form of land ready to be built upon. FIPOI can arrange the purchase, construction or conversion of buildings for international organisations. The Foundation also has the authority to buy real estate in its own right as well as to build, rent and/or administer properties.

The granting of an interest-free loan to an organisation suffering from a shortage of space to build is an attractive option – an arrangement which is also in the interest of Switzerland as host country. When an organisation undertakes a major building project with the advice and assistance of FIPOI and then takes possession of the completed building, its attachment to Switzerland will be that much greater. In this way a FIPOI loan becomes a tool of both location promotion and of host country policy.

At the end of December 2005 the loans granted by the federal authorities to FIPOI amounted to around 353 million Swiss francs and according to a fire insurance estimate FIPOI property assets stood at 664 million Swiss francs.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Thanks to its status as host to many international organisations and conferences, Switzerland plays a unique role within the United Nations system and in particular its Office in Geneva (UNOG). Even before becoming a full member of the United Nations Organisation five years ago, Switzerland had long been an active member of the UN specialized agencies. Although the change of status in 2002 has above all had an effect in New York, as the home of the General Assembly, adhesion has also been beneficial to the defence of the interests of International Geneva, since with the rights of a full member the Confederation is now able to participate without hindrance in all multilateral cooperation efforts under the auspices of the United Nations, and to defend its own interests, notably with regard to candidacies for positions in the international organisations.

So it is now as a UN Member State in the fullest sense that Switzerland works to provide conditions that will enable the international organisations in Geneva to function in the best possible way. In this context, the Swiss government tries to help to promote activities of the resident international organisations which are in line with Swiss priorities and with international Geneva's image in the world.

The UN's present efforts to improve the coherence of operations in the field calls for greater coordination among the specialized agencies and will have practical consequences for those based in Switzerland. This topic was discussed at the meeting of the Chief Executive Board of the UN chaired by the Secretary-General. It was held in Switzerland in April 2007, with the support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

World Trade Organization: real estate questions

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is one of the main international organisations based in Switzerland. Since its founding in 1995 the WTO has occupied the former home of the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Centre William Rappard in Geneva. As a result of the steadily growing number of its members, new negotiation rounds and mandates, and the strong demand for its involvement in the settlement of trade disputes, the WTO's need for additional staff and space has continued to grow in recent years.

The WTO therefore approached Switzerland as the host country with a request for a 60 million Swiss francs FIPOI loan to finance an additional building in Geneva. In November 2005 the Swiss government, having decided to support this official request from the WTO as a contribution to its development, submitted the relevant Message to Parliament.

The Council of States approved the request at its plenary session in the spring of 2006. Shortly thereafter the current Director-General of the WTO, Pascal Lamy, announced that in the long term, he would like to see the Organisation kept together under the same roof, so that the proposed new building would have to be regarded as little more than a transitional solution. It was therefore decided to adjourn discussion of this matter in the Swiss parliament until the WTO's strategy with regard to its headquarters becomes clearer.

The General Council of WTO, in which all members are represented and which decides on questions of strategy as well as policy with regard to the WTO headquarters, authorised the WTO Director-General in September 2006 to begin talks with the Swiss authorities regarding the choice of a suitable location, and all matters relating to possible new permanent headquarters for the WTO. The Federal Council in December 2006 mandated the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to conduct official talks with the WTO for the purpose of learning its present wishes and requirements in the matter of real estate needs so as to be able to decide on the appropriateness of the proposed new building project. Discussions are at present continuing between the WTO and Switzerland. It is hoped that Geneva will continue to meet the Organisation's short, medium and long term needs in this matter. Parliament is being kept informed about the

latest developments via the Foreign Affairs Committees (FAC). The most recent information provided to the National Council FAC was in January 2007, while the Council of States FAC was informed in February 2007.

World Health Organization: election of the Director-General and international challenges to health

The year 2006 for the World Health Organization (WHO) was marked by the sudden death of its Director-General Dr Jong-wook Lee, which occurred on the first day of the 59th session of the World Health Assembly, 22 May 2006. Adopting an accelerated procedure in view of the circumstances, the Member States appointed a new Director-General on 9 November 2006 in the person of Dr Margaret Chan, a Chinese national who until then had been Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases and the Director-General's Representative for Pandemic Influenza. When taking office on 4 January 2007, Dr Chan identified six priority areas in which she intends to focus the efforts of WHO in the course of her five-year mandate. The six areas are as follows:

- Health development: Bearing in mind the close links between health and socio-economic conditions, a number of Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015 concern public health.
- Health security: In this context, the threat of a flu pandemic continues to be taken very seriously. In May 2006,

the World Health Assembly invited the Member States to immediately apply, on a voluntary basis, the relevant provisions of the International Health Regulations, in the stricter version adopted in 2005. Otherwise the Regulations came into force on 15 June 2007 – notably for Switzerland – which adopted them without reservations.

- **Strengthening health systems:** Efforts must be made to ensure that all countries have the essential tools for public health monitoring and action. Many countries face a shortage of qualified health workers. In 2006 the report on the world's health published by WHO was devoted to this topic ('Working together for health'). A 'Global Health Workforce Alliance' was launched in May 2006 under the auspices of WHO.
- **Information and knowledge about health:** WHO must be able to call upon reliable data and be able to analyse it in the most effective manner.
- **Management of partnerships:** Through links between WHO and other actors in the health sector at the international level there has been a significant increase in the number of public health initiatives and institutions in recent years, notably from large private foundations. Collaboration between these is indispensable.
- **Measuring the effectiveness of results achieved by WHO:** As an organisation with a strong presence in the field, WHO is very much concerned by the

recommendations of the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

Dr Chan expressed the desire to have the success of her mandate evaluated in terms of the impact of WHO activities on the health of two population groups in particular: women and the people of Africa. The priorities of the new Director-General were among the items on the agenda during her visit to Bern on 16 January 2007, when she was received by the Head of the Department of Home Affairs, Pascal Couchepin, for a working lunch.

In May 2006, the World Health Assembly adopted the new WHO strategy document for the next 10-year period (2006-2015). This programme, entitled 'Working together for health', lays particular stress on priority areas and what it sees as the essential functions of the WHO. Its implementation will be on the basis of a medium-term strategic plan over six years (2008-2013) with biennial programme budgets.

Switzerland plays an active role in the WHO, both in relation to general health questions and development policy questions. One area of particular interest to Switzerland, in which much has been accomplished over the past year, concerns the relationship between public health, innovation and intellectual property.

Established on the basis of a resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2003, the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPRH), chaired by a former president of the Swiss Confederation, Ruth Dreifuss, published its report in April 2006. One month later the World Health Assembly decided to set up an Intergovernmental Working Group for the purpose of preparing an international strategy and action plan on the basis of the CIPRH recommendations. Switzerland chaired the negotiations on the corresponding resolution. The intergovernmental working group, in which Switzerland plays an active role, held its first meeting in December 2006 in Geneva. It is due to meet again towards the end of 2007 to finalise a draft strategy and action plan for submission to the World Health Assembly in May 2008.

Switzerland's other priorities include strengthening the normative role of WHO and shifting the focus of its activities to areas where it can best achieve added value. Closely involved in the debate on greater coherence in the efforts of the United Nations system, which is still at an early stage, Switzerland will watch carefully to see that the WHO continues to play an appropriate role at the operational level of international health.

In its role as host country to WHO, Switzerland was pleased to be able to participate in the inauguration in November

2006 of a new headquarters building financed by an interest-free loan granted from the Building Foundation for International Organisations (FIPOI). The new centre will not only be home to the WHO but also to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). As for the buildings which the Organisation occupies around the world, WHO at the request of Member States, has prepared a 10-year plan covering future requirements, notably concerning work that needs to be carried out. In such cases Switzerland always stresses the importance of setting aside sufficient resources to meet such requirements in the Organisation's normal budget. Furthermore, in response to concerns regarding public health and also in the framework of its duties as host country to WHO and a great many other international organisations in Geneva, the Swiss authorities are providing support for a project under the direct supervision of WHO, whose purpose is to ensure the preparedness of all of the actors of international Geneva in the event of a pandemic of bird flu. Considering the size of the international community in Geneva and the city's closeness to the French border, particular care must be taken with these preparations.

International Telecommunications Union:

Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, election of the Secretary-General, and the future of Telecom

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has three sectors: Radio-communications, Telecommunication Standardization and Telecommunication Development. Their activities cover all branches of telecommunications: standardization, management of the radio frequency spectrum, the development of telecommunication worldwide, tech-

nical assistance for developing countries, and so on. The work of these three sectors is channelled to the ITU conferences and meetings in which members negotiate agreements that provide the basis for telecommunication services throughout the world. The work of the ITU is based on the principle of cooperation between the public and private sectors. At present the ITU has 191 Member States and over 600 members in other sectors (operators, equipment manufacturers, etc.).

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ETHIOPIA: Celebrating the International Day of Peace in the UN Mission in Ethiopia. On 21 September 1981, the General Assembly declared that this day 'shall be officially dedicated and observed as the International Day of Peace'.

The supreme organ of the ITU is the Plenipotentiary Conference, which meets every four years. The most recent meeting took place 6–24 November 2006 in Antalya (Turkey). Various resolutions and recommendations were adopted, covering such matters as the participation of civil society in the work of the ITU, the role of the Union in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, its role in the question of governance of the Internet, and how to solve the problem of arrears and outstanding payments for satellite notifications. The Conference of Antalya produced several results of importance to Switzerland which are worth mentioning.

The Conference elected five high-ranking international officials who will be in charge of the ITU administration up to the end of 2010. The African group's candidate, Hamadou Touré of Mali, was elected as the new Secretary-General, thanks to strong support from the developing countries and countries in transition. The Swiss candidate for this post, Marc Furrer, withdrew after the second round.

The members of the ITU Council for the 2007–2010 period were also elected in Antalya. Switzerland was re-elected to the Council for region B (Western Europe) with the respectable score of 133 votes out of 155. Composed of 46 countries, the Council acts as the ITU management body. It meets each year in Geneva in the interval between Confer-

ences. As required by the rule calling for rotation between the regions, according to which region B was due for the presidency in 2007, the presidency of the ITU Council was bestowed on Switzerland at the proposal of Germany.

In the context of the ITU's new strategic and budgetary orientations for the 2008–2011 period, the Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya set the value of a contributory unit at 318,000 Swiss francs for the 2008–09 biennial budget.

The Council is expected to decide on the 2010–11 biennial budget in 2009, with a ceiling of 330,000 Swiss francs for the contributory unit. Switzerland has announced that its statutory contribution is to be reduced from 15 to 10 contributory units.

A more transparent selection procedure has now been introduced for the choice of venues for the Telecom world trade fairs which are organised periodically by the ITU. Switzerland is committed to the

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NEW YORK: At its Plenary Assembly on 13 October the United Nations elected Ban Ki-moon of South Korea as its new Secretary-General. Replacing Kofi Annan, he took office on 1 January 2007.

idea of the competition for each world exposition being open to countries from all continents, applying the principle of rotation only when there are several competing candidatures of equivalent value. This solution will enable Geneva to continue to submit offers to host Telecom world fairs, while at the same time allowing the ITU to choose the best candidate.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: real estate questions

The mission of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is to protect and promote human rights in accordance with UN objectives. It must ensure that universally recognised human rights standards are implemented and that the principle of the indivisibility and interdependence of human rights is respected. Thanks to a strong presence in the field, in national institutions and organisations and non-governmental organisations, the High Commissioner can alert the international community when these rights are being violated and put pressure on Member States to take the measures necessary to prevent such violations. OHCHR is also responsible for the Secretariat of the new Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Following doubling of the proportion of the normal UN budget earmarked for OHCHR, agreed by the Heads of State and Government during the M+5 Summit, OHCHR was able to increase staff

by about 350 in 2006. As a result of this growth its headquarters in the Palais Wilson in Geneva is now too small. The FDFA and FIPOI therefore joined forces in an effort to find a suitably large new administrative building in the city of Geneva, to negotiate a lease acceptable to OHCHR and to adapt the building to its requirements. The host country contributed more than 3 million Swiss francs to cover the costs in the transitional period and towards the necessary transformation.

FURTHER ENHANCING THE IMAGE OF INTERNATIONAL GENEVA

The ability to offer a first-rate academic environment is another key factor – as important as modern infrastructure and the everyday security of persons and property – that makes Switzerland in general and Geneva in particular an attractive location for international organisations and conferences.

In this context the Swiss government has noted with satisfaction the establishment of a new institution, the 'Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development' (IHEID), pooling the resources of three existing university institutions and enhancing Geneva's reputation as a leading centre of international studies. The further development of this centre of learning, as part of a large Swiss and international network, is high on the list of Switzerland's priorities in the year 2007.

IHEID: birth of a new institution

The creation of the IHEID is the fruit of concerted efforts in recent years to further develop the range of international studies available in Geneva. It is the intention of the Swiss federal and cantonal authorities to make the IHEID a leading authority in the field of international studies. This is being done in collaboration with academic partners which notably include the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) of the University of Geneva, the Graduate

Institute of Development Studies (GIDS), and the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN).

HEI and GIDS representatives, in consultation with the federal and cantonal authorities, prepared the statutes of the new institution in the final months of 2006. Much thought was given to the composition of the future Foundation Board, taking into account the following: the need to appoint persons of recognised abilities, for balanced gender representation, for the inclusion of leading national and international figures, for an optimum age average, and for equilibrium between the different styles of the HEI and the GIDS. Furthermore, to ensure the complete independence that is necessary for strong governance there should in principle be no representatives of the federal or cantonal authorities in the IHEID Foundation Board.

Following endorsement by the Foundation Boards of the HEI and the GIDS, the Federal Council and the State Council of the Canton of Geneva approved the statutes and the composition of the Foundation Board of this new institution on 16 May 2007.

The budget required for the establishment of this new institution was included with the message concerning the encouragement of training, research and innovation in the period from 2008–2011. This message was adopted by the Federal Council and submitted

to Parliament on 24 January 2007. The new institution will have several sites: the 'Maison de la Paix', which is due for completion around 2012, the Villa Barton, and the premises of the GIDS (rue Rothschild). The 'Maison de la Paix' has been designed to accommodate the three Geneva Centres – the Centre for Security Policy, the International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the Centre for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces – thus creating a strengthened geographical environment favourable to the development of synergies.


Due to open its doors officially on 1 January 2008, the new Institute will be expected to establish itself both nationally and internationally as a university-level centre of excellence in the field of international relations in terms of teaching and research, advanced studies, and expertise in international relations. To achieve the critical mass and dispose of the resources necessary to fulfil this ambition, the Institute will need the support of a high-performance network in international relations between all Swiss universities. The Federal Council, in response to a parliamentary interpellation (Bürgi, 06.3283), has clearly stated its commitment to the creation of a network of Swiss universities involved in the study of international relations in interaction with IHEID. Contacts have already been established.

Strengthening relations with civil society and NGOs

Since becoming a member of the United Nations five years ago, the Federal Council has accorded particular importance to informing and consulting civil society about Switzerland's relations with the UN. Efforts to encourage civil society partnerships and other forms of participation have focused mainly on three areas: non-governmental organisations (NGOs), youth and the academic world.


Partnerships with NGOs have been actively developed through close collaboration with the United Nations Association Switzerland and support for its activities. Each year the Association organises the Swiss NGO Conference on UN Issues, enabling interested NGOs to engage in dialogue with representatives of the Federal Administration on Switzerland's relations with the UN and Swiss priorities for the coming session of the UN General Assembly. The Swiss government's annual report serves as a discussion basis for this conference, in which the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) – Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey – usually participates, or in her absence the FDFA State Secretary.

The United Nations Association Switzerland also organises an event in the autumn of each year to inform interested members of the public about Switzerland's operational activities within the

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SUDAN: The UN helps to resettle the population in South Sudan. The *United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)* is a UN peacekeeping mission, created after 20 years of civil war, in an effort to restore peace to the southern part of this African country. Around 10,000 military and non-military personnel have been deployed in the region. However, conflicts continue in the western region of Darfur.

United Nations. This opens dialogue with Swiss citizens who have been active in the field, for example in the area of demining. The most recent meeting took place in Baden in October 2006, on the initiative of National Councillor Pascale Bruderer, in the presence of Ms Calmy-Rey.

Following Switzerland's UN membership, close collaboration has been developed with the National Youth Council of Switzerland. Each year a youth delegate is invited to join Switzerland's

delegation to the General Assembly, or to participate in some other important UN-related event. Youth delegates subsequently become involved in information activities in collaboration with the United Nations Association Switzerland, as well as in young peoples conferences and exercises simulating the work of the UN.

A practical guide dealing with various UN-related activities open to young people has been elaborated for the use of teachers and young people's associa-

tions. It is the result of the joint efforts of the Swiss Council on Youth Activities, the United Nations Association Switzerland, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO, the Swiss educational service provider Educa.ch and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The UN4YOUth guide (accessible at www.un4youth.educa.ch) can be found on the Swiss education service provider

www.educa.ch. It offers a wide range of information and UN-related activities for young people: workshops, stages, training, simulations of the work of the United Nations, teaching supports, networks and sources of documentation.

Several major UN simulation projects have already been carried out in Switzerland in 2007. The 'Geneva International Model United Nations' organised

by students of HEI brought together 200 university students from all over the world, on 3–9 March 2007, for the eighth consecutive year. The WorldMUN 2007 which took place in Geneva 26–30 March 2007, was organised by students of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne. Nearly 1500 people from 35 nations participated in this simulation, which is organised each year on a different continent (WorldMUN 2006 was in Beijing). These two events were major opportunities to bring motivated students from all over the world to Switzerland to experience for themselves the many different faces of international Geneva at a time when Switzerland is celebrating the fifth anniversary of its admission to the United Nations.

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NEW YORK: Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, informs the media at the UN HQ in New York on the Action Plan adopted earlier in the day by the General Assembly. The Action Plan shows how various UN bodies as well as the UN Member States can make increasing use of sport as a cost- and otherwise effective means of promoting peace and development, thus making a contribution to achieving the Millennium Development

Goals for the year 2015. It was also an opportunity for Adolf Ogi to present to the media his report on the International Year of Sport and Physical Education of 2005.

Education and research, like NGOs and youth, are areas of particular importance for Switzerland's active participation in the work of the United Nations. As well as helping to inform the public and training a new generation for work in the international organisations, universities are a source of specialised skills indispensable for the development and implementation of Swiss initiatives in the framework of the UN. One example is the work of Professor Walter Kälin of the University of Bern, who played a key role in the initiative which led to the creation of the new Human Rights Council.

Fully aware of the importance of such partnerships, the Federal Department of

Foreign Affairs (FDFA) has developed the 'UNO academia' project to intensify the exchanges between the FDFA and academic circles in Switzerland in areas of importance to the work of the United Nations, as well as between academic circles and the international organisations based in Switzerland. The 'UNO academia' project will include the development of a research network on the UN and the international organisations, with correspondents in all Swiss universities. Acting on a FDFA mandate, the future IHEID Institute in Geneva will provide this network with a scientific secretariat supervised by a scientific Council, an Internet portal, and the support necessary for the organisation of conferences and meetings in the various universities of Switzerland.

CAMPAIGNS FOR SWISS CANDIDACIES AND LESSONS LEARNED



Family name: Engler

Given name: Christian

Age: 35

Profession/studies: Historian (humanities and social sciences), University of Lausanne

Function in the UN system: Associate Expert in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Personnel Services, since June 2006

Personal motivation: 'To get an idea and be part of the only international organisation, which includes all countries in the world. Because of its recent accession to the UN, Switzerland is still under-represented'.

Since becoming a full member of the UN in September 2002 Switzerland has been eligible for participation in all UN bodies, programmes and funds as well as in the specialised agencies. The Confederation has every intention of strengthening its presence both in the main bodies and the associated commissions, committees and subsidiary bodies, and in the secretariats and executive bodies of the various agencies of the UN system.

There is a major difference in the appointment of a member, or the representative of a Member State to a selected governing body on the one hand, and to a secretariat or executive body on the other hand. In the case of executive organs the positions (excepting those of Secretary-General or Director-General)

are filled by appointment whereas the representatives of Member States in the selected governing bodies are decided by means of electoral procedures. The instruments for supporting Swiss candidacies therefore vary: in the case of appointment/nomination procedures Swiss candidacies are supported by targeted campaigning and by lobbying of the authorities responsible for appointments. In the case of electoral procedures, Swiss candidacies are supported by full-scale election campaigns targeting members of the electoral body.

ELECTIONS

On 7 September 2006 the Contracting Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were called upon to replace half of the 18 experts that make up the Human Rights Committee, at the end of their four-year term of office. Switzerland, which adhered to the Covenant in 1992, has been represented in the Human Rights Committee by Professor Walter Kälin since 2003. His four-year mandate expired at the end of 2006. Since protecting and promoting human rights is one of the five declared priorities of Swiss foreign policy, notably through the Confederation's express commitment to the principles enshrined in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the re-election of Professor Kälin for a second term of office



Family name: Urscheler

Given name: Marlene

Age: 29

Profession/studies: Degree in International Relations, HEI Geneva / LLM in International Human Rights Law

Function in the UN system: Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Kathmandu Regional Office, in Nepal since January 2006

Personal motivation: 'After intense studies in human rights and humanitarian international law, I really wanted to put this theoretical knowledge into practice in the field. The post with the OHCHR in Nepal was an ideal opportunity'.



Family name: Rüegg

Given name: Maja

Age: 24

Profession/studies: Degree in International Relations, HEI Geneva

Function in the UN system: 'Youth Rep' (Youth Representative) since March 2006

Personal motivation: 'The UN is the most appropriate organisation to reflect the views of young people at the international level. At the same time, it is important that Swiss youth learn about the UN and give some thought about global challenges'.

was considered important, as it would ensure Switzerland's continued presence on the Committee. Switzerland's strategy for the election campaign was to focus entirely on the qualifications of its candidate, Professor Kälin, who since 2004 has served as the UN Secretary-General's Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons. He demonstrated during his first term of office his in-depth understanding and knowledge of human rights questions. Although on 7 September 2006 there were 23 candidates from 21 countries in the field vying for nine vacant seats on the Committee, Professor Kälin was re-elected in the first ballot.

On 15 November 2006 the UN General Assembly had to renew the International

Law Commission (ILC). The ILC was created soon after the founding of the UN for the purpose of 'promoting the ongoing development and codification of international law'. The reports of the ILC are examined by the 6th Committee of the UN General Assembly, and may eventually lead to codification negotiations. A large number of the multilateral treaties of the past 60 years has relied on basic input from the ILC. As a constitutional State Switzerland considers it particularly important that international relations continue to develop in the context of a rigorous legal framework. Switzerland, which views the work of the ILC as being of particular importance, has proposed Professor Lucius Caflisch as a candidate. Professor Caflisch has longstanding practical experience, pro-

found knowledge of international law, and an understanding of political realism. Although in the past Switzerland has presented a number of internationally renowned specialists in international law, there has, until 2006, never been a Swiss representative in the ILC. Professor Caflisch was one of 44 candidates standing for election to the 34 available seats in the ILC. The General Assembly elected Professor Caflisch.

On 12 December 2006 the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) elected a Swiss professor of international law, Ms Barbara Wilson, as a new member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). The election of Ms Wilson enabled Switzerland to keep a representative on the Commit-

tee following the departure of Professor Giorgio Malinverni, who had to give up his seat following his appointment as a judge at the European Court of Human Rights. Economic, social and cultural rights are enshrined in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and have been binding on Switzerland since 18 September 1992. These include the right to work in fair and favourable conditions, the right to social security, the right to education, the right to an adequate standard of living insofar as food, clothing and housing are concerned, and the right to health. Among its many other duties the CESCR, with 18 independent experts, receives reports from the 153 Contracting States, and comments on these before passing them on to ECOSOC. The comments of the CESCR should help ECOSOC to meet the reporting obligations contained in Articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant and in preparing recommendations to the UN General Assembly or other UN bodies. Through the candidacy and successful election of Professor Wilson, Switzerland has made an important contribution to the representation of women in the CESCR.

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was held in Antalya (Turkey) in November 2006. The supreme organ of the ITU includes representatives from all Member States, and meets every four years to decide on the future role of the organisation and make appointments to

other ITU organs. At the beginning of 2006 Switzerland decided to announce two candidacies at this conference. The first was the candidacy of Switzerland itself for re-election to the ITU Council, in which our country has had a seat since the organisation's founding, i.a. due to its status as host country. The second was a candidate to replace the Secretary-General upon completion of his mandate at the end of 2006. Switzerland's candidacy for a seat on the Council was successful, as it was re-elected on 16 November 2006 with 133 votes. The candidacy for the position of Secretary-General did not meet with the same success. Marc Furrer, former Director General of the Swiss Federal Office for Communications (FOC) and also President of the Federal Communications Commission, was nominated as Switzerland's candidate for the office of the ITU Secretary-General in February 2006. The Plenipotentiary Conference is responsible for electing the Secretary-General and his Deputy, as well as Directors for each of the three sectors. Furthermore, it is an unwritten rule that the candidates for all five positions are to be chosen exclusively from representatives of the five geographical regions. Unforeseeably just prior to the Plenipotentiary Conference, African Heads of State attended a summit meeting in Beijing with the Chinese Head of State, and the countries of Asia and Africa agreed to give mutual support to their respective candidates for the posts to be filled. In this way the promises and pledges

of support for the European candidates made prior to the Beijing summit were made null and void. As a result of this unfavourable turn of events Switzerland decided to withdraw its candidate after an unsuccessful first ballot.

NOMINATIONS

On 20 April 2006 the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Gérard Stoudmann as his 'High Representative for Elections in Côte d'Ivoire'. Prior to this appointment Stoudmann held the position of Head of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. His job was to ensure that the elections in Côte d'Ivoire would be free and fair. In this way Switzerland is able to make a significant contribution to promoting democratisation in Côte d'Ivoire.

At the beginning of August 2006 the UN Secretary-General invited the missions of UN Member States to propose candidates to succeed the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), who had announced his resignation for the end of 2006. Switzerland decided to propose as its candidate the Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), a division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The appointment of the Executive Director of the WFP is made by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The selection process consists of two stages. In

the first stage, the candidacies submitted are checked by a committee meeting at the headquarters of the FAO and the WFP in Rome. This committee narrows down the number of candidates to a dozen, and forwards the relevant files to New York for subsequent interviews, in a process which narrows the selection down to a short list of three candidates, with the final decision to be taken by a second committee. Switzerland followed up and supported its own candidate throughout this process. The Swiss candidate was selected for the final round but the decision of the Secretary-General and the Director General of the FAO went in favour of the candidate from the USA, which contributes 42 per cent of the WFP budget and 25% of the FAO budget.

At the beginning of 2007 the new Secretary-General confirmed the mandate of Nicolas Michel as United Nations Legal Counsel and Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs.

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NEW YORK: Carla del Ponte of Switzerland has been Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague since 1999, a post she is due to relinquish in September 2007. Together with Hassan Bubacar Jallow, Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, she reports to the UN Security Council.

INTEGRATION OF SWITZERLAND IN THE ROTATION SCHEME OF THE WESTERN GROUP OF ECOSOC

The main task of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), one of the Principal Organs of the United Nations with 54 members elected by the General Assembly, is to coordinate the activities of the UN in the economic, social, cultural, development, health and certain other areas. ECOSOC is also important as an electoral body, as it elects the members of many UN sub-bodies.

The seats on ECOSOC are distributed between the various regional groups, with 13 seats reserved for the Western Europe and Other States Group (WEOG). In 1999 the members of WEOG agreed on a scheme of rotation to avoid the need for election campaigns. After it joined the UN, Switzerland informed WEOG members of its intention to be integrated as quickly as possible in the rotation scheme. All of the members agreed that this was a legitimate request, in accordance with the internal WEOG ruling that the rotation scheme should be reconsidered following the adherence of a new member.

Four years after its adherence to the United Nations, on 26 July 2006, at the end of three years of difficult negotiations, Switzerland was integrated in the rotation scheme with a seat in ECOSOC

for eight years in the 2007–2028 period. However, Switzerland's objective was not only to be integrated in the scheme, but also to obtain a seat within a reasonable period of time (three years at the latest) with grouped periods of two years as a minimum requirement. A second phase of facilitation was therefore launched immediately with a view to determining specifically, by 2006 at the latest, the years to be allocated to Switzerland by the WEOG.

At an extraordinary session in New York on 12 December 2006 WEOG finally agreed on the precise allocation of the eight years due to Switzerland in the 2007–28 period. Switzerland is thus to occupy a seat in ECOSOC for the first time in 2011 and 2012. This successful outcome was the result of a long campaign conducted jointly by Swiss diplomacy and the WEOG facilitator Ambassador Noghès of the Principality of Monaco, who played a pivotal role in this long and difficult process. The Swiss government is satisfied with this positive outcome in a matter which was among Switzerland's priorities for the 61st session of the General Assembly.

LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE CAMPAIGNS ON BEHALF OF SWISS CANDIDACIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

In the past year Switzerland has followed up and supported an unusually large number of candidacies. This accumulation was due to institutional reasons including the creation of new organs such as the Human Rights Council, and also to staffing reasons arising from the resignation of Swiss representatives. The campaigns in support of Swiss candidates were managed successfully with two exceptions. Switzerland succeeded in maintaining its representation in the important permanent Committees of the United Nations with the election of Yvan Pictet to the Investments Committee of the General Assembly, the election of Professor Barbara Wilson to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the re-election of Professor Walter Kälin to the Human Rights Committee. Moreover Switzerland obtained its first seat in the UNGA International Law Commission with the election of Professor Lucius Caflisch, and a three-year mandate in the newly-created Human Rights Council. The Confederation thus managed to strengthen and consolidate its presence and position to a considerable extent within the United Nations.

Switzerland put considerable effort and commitment into presenting its candidates for positions within the United Na-

tions. Not only that, but the candidates themselves were able to display strong powers of persuasion. Switzerland's campaigns were successful primarily because it focused its candidacies on areas that are of special importance for Switzerland's foreign policy and in which Switzerland has distinguished itself since becoming a full UN member, for example in the development of international law and the institutional development of human rights. When it comes to supporting Swiss candidacies in electoral processes, the vote of every Member State counts. Success therefore requires a major effort on the part of Switzerland's worldwide diplomatic network, as well as the central office in Bern. The campaigns must be prepared well in advance. And perfect cooperation between Swiss diplomats in the capital cities of Member States as well as the permanent missions where the elections are being held is equally indispensable. Switzerland offers its services as an intermediary in these areas of special interest, and relies for its election mainly on the support of states from other geographical regions. Particularly important in this context are the small countries on the European periphery as well as the French-speaking countries of the African continent.

In 2006 it again became clear that it is far more difficult for Switzerland to support candidacies for management positions in the executive organs, than simply to maintain or even extend its presence

in the representative organs. This is true regardless of the selection process – whether by election or appointment – or indeed the qualifications of the candidates, as has been demonstrated by the campaigns for the positions of Executive Director of the WFP and Secretary-General of the ITU. In a multilateral world in which the abilities and independence of candidates are less important than the size of their country's budget contributions or membership of a particular interest group, it is increasingly difficult for Swiss candidates competing for management functions in the executive organs of the UN specialized agencies, programmes and funds. Only by acting in concert with like-minded States, and counting on the specific abilities of a candidate in the areas which have priority for Switzerland, can there still be some hope of success.

An important instrument for election campaigns in support of Swiss candidacies is the 'EDA-IO/UNO-Vote' database. This database holds a complete record of all efforts to date to enlist foreign support, in addition to information on pre-election agreements. At present an internal audit is being made of this database, which has been in existence since Switzerland became a full UN member. Once the improvements are made it should become easier to coordinate Swiss election campaigns in the capital cities and election locations.

CONCLUSION AND SWITZERLAND'S PRIORITIES FOR THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Federal Council is satisfied with our country's first five years of participation in the UN as a member of the Organisation. Our experience working closely with the UN for five years has confirmed that the world body has become an indispensable additional instrument in the pursuit of our foreign policy objectives in the areas of peace, security, the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, sustainable development, the conservation of natural resources, and humanitarian assistance. Since joining in 2002, Switzerland has gained new room for manoeuvre in the UN to defend its interests and advance its foreign policy agenda. Switzerland has a considerable stake in a comprehensive and peaceful world order in freedom under the rule of international law. And while the United

Nations Organisation can always be improved, it enjoys a unique legitimacy and is the key global forum for states to deal with common problems without thematic restrictions. For this reason, it is in Switzerland's interest to continue to press for reforms with an eye to strengthening the Organisation and ensuring the efficient use of its resources.

On the domestic front, the Federal Council notes the success of the measures and instruments in place to ensure interdepartmental coordination and to allow our country to secure its position rapidly within the UN. The federal departments and offices have been able to cooperate effectively, particularly within the UN's Interdepartmental Working Group (IDAG-ONU), and consultations on our

country's positions on UN projects profit from modern technical resources – thanks notably to the CH@UN platform, begun in 2005 – which allow the federal administration to make rapid and transparent decisions.

In keeping with undertakings made during the campaign for Swiss membership, the Federal Council also intends to continue its policy of engaged dialogue with the Parliament, which was initiated on the occasion of Switzerland's becoming a Member State. This dialogue with Parliament is conducted on several levels: within the Foreign Affairs Committees of the two Chambers; during the review of the Federal Council's annual report; on the occasion of debates on topical issues; and in plenary sessions of

Spotlight

Switzerland in the United Nations:
First five years



2002: Switzerland officially accedes to UN membership.



2007: The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, chairs the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) meeting in Geneva.



2003: Office at Geneva (UNOG) hosts the World Summit on the Information Society.



2004: UN talks on Cyprus held in the Swiss resort, Bürgenstock.



2006: First session of the UN Human Rights Council at its Geneva HQ.



2005: Switzerland and the UN organize the 'United Against Malaria' concert in Geneva, with performers including Peter Gabriel and Youssou N'Dour.

the National Council and the Council of States. When the Federal Council's annual report is submitted to them, the National Council and the Council of States also have the opportunity to take a position on our country's priorities for the next session of the UN General Assembly. Furthermore, members of the two Federal Chambers make ready use of the instruments at their disposal (interpellations, questions, motions and petitions) in their quest for a more profound dialogue with the Federal Council regarding our country's relations with the United Nations. Parliamentary interventions have focused on Switzerland's participation in peacekeeping operations, as well as the amount of our country's contributions to the United Nations.

A delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council, led by its President, Luzi Stamm, visited the United States from 15 to 20 October 2006. The delegates paid a visit to the UN headquarters in New York as well as to those of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington. The parliamentary delegation, composed of National Councillors Rosmarie Zapfl, Gerold Bühler, Mario Fehr, Remo Gysin, Christoph Mörgeli, Walter Müller and Ulrich Schlüer, met with Nicolas Michel, who, as Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, occupies the Organisation's highest post assigned to a Swiss citizen. The delegation also met with Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Meanwhile, Ms Christine Egerszegi-Obrist, the President of the National Council, attended the Third Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament held on 2 March 2007 in New York, where she spoke to various organisation leaders, including the newly elected Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, Ms Asha-Rose Migiro.

The Federal Council will also continue to provide the Swiss public with transparent information, a policy which arises directly from the fact that Switzerland is the only member state of the United Nations to have put its membership to a popular vote.

Switzerland's priorities for the 62nd General Assembly follow on from those of previous years. They include in particular:

- working for institutional consolidation of the Human Rights Council;
- pursuing its initiative aimed at improving the working methods of the Security Council, including the practices of the Committees charged with administering sanctions ('listing/delisting');
- keeping a high profile and playing an active role in the implementation of a more coherent operational system for the United Nations;
- working to foster the conditions for a positive development of international environmental governance;
- enhancing the United Nations' internal management and control;
- helping to increase the relevance of the United Nations in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, for instance by means of peacekeeping and mediation activities.

At the Session of the General Assembly, the first at which the new Secretary-General will have the opportunity to present his ideas and to fully carry out his own agenda, Switzerland will focus on the following challenges:

- consolidating its close ties to the new Secretary-General's team and, in synergy with his agenda, continuously identifying niches and launching new initiatives;
- enhancing its institutional position (in the middle term, potential candidature for the Security Council, now in the process of filling vacancies for the 2015–2020 period; potential candidature for the Peacebuilding Commission in 2011; consistent placement of Swiss nationals at all levels of the Organisation);
- refining its positioning and its profile as a facilitator and a promotor of solutions (an 'honest broker'), distinct from the major alliances and capable of building bridges to the countries of

the south while remaining solidly anchored in Europe;

- consolidating its contacts with like-minded countries on specific topics or initiatives, and thus forging variable, flexible alliances depending on the given context while ensuring an appropriate north-south balance.

Five years after joining the UN, Switzerland has taken up a solid position at the heart of the Organisation; yet nothing is carved in stone, and the journey has just begun. The main thing now is to consolidate the results attained thus far and to enhance our capacity for initiatives in years to come.

The Federal Council will continue to pay to Switzerland's relations with the United Nations the attention appropriate to this indispensable international instrument for the defence of our interests and those of our citizens.

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NEW YORK: 'Good-bye Kofi Annan'. The UN's seventh Secretary-General at a press conference to mark the end of his term of office, which began in January 1997 and ended in December 2006. In 2001 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Before his election as Secretary-General, Kofi Annan had held several positions within the organisation. Annan has strong links with Switzerland, having studied in Geneva, where he met his wife-to-be.

ANNEX

PROGRESS OF SWITZERLAND'S OBLIGATORY CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN 2005–2007

(in CHF)

		2005	2006	2007
Regular budget				
- Annual contribution to the 'Capital Master Plan' fund		26 625 903 266 362	26 556 374 1 691 449	30 411 471 5 902 769
UN Courts of Justice				
- International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia		2 432 929	2 165 389	2 401 470
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda		1 868 347	1 920 927	1 995 950
Peacekeeping operations		84 697 540	46 939 029	85 129 259 ⁷
Contributions to fund for the biannual budget period:				
- Operating capital fund				252 781
- Reserve fund for peacekeeping operations				
Total		115 891 081	79 273 168	126 093 700

Exchange rates USD–CHF: 2005 = 1.25 2006 = 1.30 2007 = 1.25

Switzerland's contribution rate for 2004–2006 was 1.197%.
For 2007–2009 the UN General Assembly set it at 1.216%.

⁷ Estimate: Precise expenses for peacekeeping operations will not be known until late 2007.

OVERVIEW OF SWITZERLAND'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN SYSTEM FOR THE YEARS 2003–2005

(in CHF)

		2003	2004	2005
1. Core UN				
- UN general (incl. obligatory contribution)		27 956 836	26 086 001	30 153 190
- Peacekeeping operations		50 810 702	60 923 791	91 773 642
- Courts, funds, programmes, institutes, commissions ⁸		228 269 079	254 180 058	243 251 428
2. Special agencies⁹		76 365 778	67 542 847	73 825 406
3. World Bank, International Monetary Fund (Bretton Woods) and associated institutions¹⁰		196 666 047	216 216 542	212 184 546
Total		580 068 442	624 949 239	651 188 212

Exchange rates USD–CHF: 2003 = 1.50 2004 = 1.35 2005 = 1.25

⁸ in the areas of development, humanitarian aid, human rights, environment, research, education

⁹ FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ICAO, ILO, ITU, IOM, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

¹⁰ CGIAR, GEF, IDA, IFC, MIGA

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN SWITZERLAND IN FIGURES

International organisations in Switzerland with headquarters agreements (of which 22 in Geneva)	25
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)	1
UN Specialised Agencies <i>Examples: World Health Organization (WHO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Universal Postal Union (UPU, Bern)</i>	7
International organisations outside the UN system <i>Examples: European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Bank for International Settlements (BIS, Basel), European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), World Trade Organization (WTO)</i>	17
International organisations in Switzerland with quasi-intergovernmental functions and fiscal agreements	6
<i>Examples: International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airports Council International (ACI), the World Conservation Union (IUCN, Gland/VD)</i>	
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with intergovernmental functions	
NGOs with headquarters in Geneva and status of advisor to the United Nations	approx. 170
International sports federations and organisations	approx. 30
Foreign states and permanent missions and representations	
Representation of foreign states at the UNOG, the WTO or the Conference on Disarmament, other missions and delegations	221
Meetings, delegates and official visits	
Meetings and conferences held by international organisations in Switzerland	approx. 2 500
Participating delegates and experts	approx. 150 000
Participating heads of state and government, ministers	approx. 3 000
Financial information (in CHF)	
Annual overall budget of international organisations in Geneva	approx. 8 billion
Estimated expenses of international organisations with headquarters agreements in Switzerland	approx. 4,5 billion
International community in Switzerland (figures rounded)	
Positions at international organisations in Switzerland	approx. 20 000
Positions at international organisations in Geneva	approx. 18 000
Positions at diplomatic missions in Geneva	approx. 3 600
Positions at quasi-intergovernmental organisations in Switzerland	approx. 1 000
Positions at international NGOs in Geneva	approx. 2 400
International community (employees and family members) in Switzerland	approx. 40 000
Additional positions in connection with the international role played by Geneva	approx. 14 000

Further information is available on the website of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva (<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intorg/un/unmiss/unge.html>) as well as on the website of the Canton of Geneva (<http://www.geneve.ch/internationale>).

