
I have the honour to submit the second report of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations.

The Working Group undertook an examination of the report of the Secretary-General, “No exit without strategy: Security Council decision-making and the closure or transition of United Nations peacekeeping operations” (S/2001/394), of 20 April 2001. The Working Group is pleased to attach its report hereto for consideration by the Security Council (see annex).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Curtis A. Ward
Chairman
Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations
Annex


2. The Secretary-General’s report was prepared at the request of the Security Council, conveyed to the Secretary-General in a letter from the President dated 30 November 2000 (S/2000/1141), and which followed an open debate on 15 November 2000, during which members of the Council discussed issues related to the closing of peacekeeping missions, changing the mandates of current missions, and other related issues with respect to exit strategies from peacekeeping missions. Nineteen non-members of the Council participated in the debate and shared their perspectives on these issues with the Council.

3. The Secretary-General, in his report, pointed to lessons learned from the experience with peacekeeping and peace-building over the past decade and offered guidelines for the Council to consider as decisions to launch, close or significantly alter the mandate of a peace operation are made.

4. The Secretary-General’s report highlighted the respective roles of the Security Council and other principal United Nations organs and agencies in formulating and implementing decisions related to creation and execution of a peace operation. In particular, the report underscored the Security Council’s responsibility to reach agreement on a clear and achievable mandate; the Secretariat’s responsibility to provide the candid and well-informed analysis that the Security Council’s decision on an effective strategy will require and the importance of the Secretariat having the capacity to provide such credible, impartial analysis; and the role of the General Assembly in authorizing a timely budget allocation.

5. The Secretary-General’s report emphasized the importance of the Security Council engaging troop-contributing countries in a thorough and frank discussion of the issues involved during the process.

6. The Working Group undertook a full examination of the issues raised in the debate of 15 November 2000, including the views of the non-members, and the issues raised, observations made and recommendations offered in the Secretary-General’s report.

7. As a result of this in-depth analysis, and bearing in mind the Charter responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Working Group has drafted a note by the President of the Security Council, which is attached hereto, setting out the agreement and commitment of members of the Security Council in its decision-making in creating a peacekeeping mandate, changing the mandate of a current mission, and closing a peacekeeping
mission, and recognizing the importance of achieving a sustainable peace through a United Nations peace mission.

The Working Group recommends that the Security Council authorize the issuance of the aforesaid draft note by its President.

(Signed) Curtis A. Ward  
Chairman  
Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations
Enclosure

Draft note

Note by the President of the Security Council on Security Council
decision-making and the closure or transition of United Nations
peacekeeping operations

The members of the Security Council, taking into account the views expressed
at its 4223rd meeting on “No exit without strategy” held on 15 November 2000 and
having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled “No exit without
strategy: Security Council decision-making and the closure or transition of United
Nations peacekeeping operations” (S/2001/394), and recognizing the importance of
achieving a sustainable peace through a United Nations peace mission, have
indicated their agreement and commitment as follows:

and all relevant Security Council resolutions, and all relevant statements of its
President; and takes note of the respective roles of the Security Council, the
Secretariat and the General Assembly, including the Security Council’s
relationship with troop-contributing countries, and the use of Security Council
missions to conflict areas, in formulating and implementing decisions with
respect to a United Nations mission.

2. The Security Council acknowledges that a good exit strategy is facilitated
by a good entrance strategy.

3. The Security Council agrees it is essential that all relevant parts of the
United Nations system, as well as the Government of the host country, are
fully engaged during the life of a mission, that clear direction is given and
milestones are established that support a comprehensive and integrated
approach to peace-building, where peace-building is appropriate, and the
operation’s exit strategy and, to that end, encourages the Secretary-General to
make recommendations to the Security Council, as appropriate.

4. The Security Council undertakes to include, as appropriate, peace-
building elements in a mission’s mandate to support the transition from
peacekeeping to post-conflict peace-building, and underlines the importance of
necessary coordination with the General Assembly and the Economic and
Social Council, and the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies
of the United Nations system, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions,
particularly in respect of transition from peacekeeping to post-conflict peace-
building.

5. The Security Council recognizes that a more systematic assessment of
certain basic factors, including political objectives, strategic analysis,
commitment of parties, role of regional actors, and resources, in particular
troops and equipment, will be important in deciding on the authorization of,
significant change to, withdrawal of, and closure and transition of United
Nations peacekeeping operations.

6. The Security Council agrees that a major criterion for the Council’s
decision on scaling down or withdrawal of a peacekeeping operation is the
successful completion of its mandate, resulting in the establishment of a
requisite political and security environment conducive to durable peace and/or
a follow-on post-conflict peace-building process.

7. The Security Council welcomes the expressed commitment of the
Secretary-General to providing the best, most pertinent information available
to the Secretariat, including that obtained through the early despatch of fact-
finding and technical surveys to potential mission areas.

8. The Security Council reiterates that the Secretary-General should possess
the capacity for efficient information gathering and analysis to provide
credible, objective analysis and sound advice to support the Council’s
deliberations during mandate formation, periodic or episodic review of a
mandate, and consideration of withdrawal of a mission.

9. The Security Council supports the expressed intention of the Secretary-
General to include comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and
reintegration programmes in his plans for future peacekeeping operations, as
appropriate, so that the Security Council can consider, on a case-by-case basis,
including aspects of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the
operations’ mandates, and encourages the Secretary-General to do so.

10. The Security Council reiterates its commitment contained in its
resolution 1353 (2001) to strengthen its partnership with troop-contributing
countries, in particular the role of troop-contributing countries in the process
of mandate formation, review and termination, taking into account the views of
troop-contributing countries for the extension of cooperation between them
and the Security Council.

11. The Security Council undertakes to give consideration its deliberations
on the launch, review, closure or significant alteration of the mandate of a
peacekeeping operation to the questions presented by the Secretary-General in
his report, and also to the observations made by Member States during the

12. The Security Council, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter, and
without compromising the Security Council’s prerogative to act, undertakes to
encourage cooperation with regional organizations, where appropriate, and
stresses, in particular, that the views of those who will be responsible for the
implementation of a peace agreement should be considered during the
negotiation phase; that the main actors in negotiations should assess
realistically the capacity and comparative advantage of different implementing
bodies; that the lines of reporting and division of labour must be unambiguous;
and recognizes the importance of regional organizations, which contribute to
peacekeeping operations, seeking to develop their capacity to provide
peacekeeping operations not only with military peacekeepers but also with
other relevant personnel, such as police and judicial or penal experts, and calls
on the international community to extend support in that regard.

13. The Security Council recognizes that the timely contribution and
deployment of personnel, material and funds is vital to the successful
implementation of a mission and withdrawal of a mission on the basis of an
accomplished mandate and agrees to undertake a major role in accordance with
its Charter responsibilities in consolidating support for the mission among the
parties, regional actors, troop-contributing countries and Member States, and reiterates that the support and political will of each can be crucial to a mission’s ultimate success.