Annual Statistics on Security Council Activity

Security Council Report has received many suggestions that it would be helpful to produce annually an overview of Council activity.

During 2007 we will develop a publication or publications which respond to this interest. However, as a small initial contribution in this area, we have prepared the following chart graphing the annual output of the Council, in terms of resolutions and presidential statements adopted from 1990 to 2006.

Statistics on the numbers of Council resolutions and presidential statements do not by themselves give a full picture of the Council’s activity. Accordingly, it will be our goal to present annually a wider range of indicators as well.

The chart shows clearly the huge spike in Council output from 1992-94. From 1995 the level of activity drops sharply and remains flat until 2005.

It is clear that in 2005 and 2006 we have witnessed another dramatic rise in output by the Security Council.

It is important to note that the rise in Council activity is matched by an equally dramatic rise in the number of peace operations approved by the Council and being deployed to the field. For a detailed commentary on the growth in peacekeeping in 2006, please see our Special Research Report, Twenty Days in August: The Security Council Sets Massive New Challenges for UN Peacekeeping, 8 September 2006.