

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 28 February 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Next Wednesday, 7 March 2001, will mark six months since the Security Council held its summit meeting entitled “Ensuring an effective role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in Africa”. As will be recalled, the summit meeting was concluded by the unanimous adoption of resolution 1318 (2000), contained in the corresponding declaration.

In this regard, I have the honour to inform you that on that day, during its presidency of the Security Council, Ukraine intends to convene an open debate on the topic of the follow-up to the Security Council Summit with a view to evaluating the progress achieved in implementation of the above declaration over the past six months and exploring further ways to enhance the role of the Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

With this in mind, I have the honour to forward to you a working paper (see annex) on the topic of the debate, which was meant to serve as a basis for the discussion. It is my hope that the open debate will provide a good opportunity for a broad and frank exchange of views of its participants, which could contribute to the efforts aimed at increasing the effectiveness of current and future activities of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the attached note with its appendix circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Valeriy P. **Kuchinsky**
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 February 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

“On the way of making intentions real”

Explanatory note for an open debate on the follow-up to the Security Council summit meeting held on 7 September 2000

On 7 September 2000, the Security Council held a meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government to consider the topic “Ensuring an effective role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in Africa”.

From many standpoints, the Security Council summit meeting at the dawn of a new millennium was both a remarkable and an indispensable event in the life of the United Nations.

As the Secretary-General underscored in his statement at that meeting, “too many vulnerable communities in too many regions of the world now hesitate to look to the United Nations to assist them in their hour of need. No amount of resolutions or statements can change that reality; only action can: prompt, united, effective action pursued with skill and discipline to halt conflict and to restore peace. Only such determined action can restore the reputation of the United Nations as a credible force for peace and justice”.

Indeed, over the past years the Security Council has been confronted with truly fundamental questions. Has it effectively discharged its primary responsibility in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security? Is the Council ready to produce and implement a well-targeted strategy to fulfil its primary task under the Charter of the United Nations? Is there a common will to face this challenge? And is there any shared vision of a real way to ensure an effective role for the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security?

The Security Council Summit became an opportunity to revisit these questions. It assembled the leaders of the Council’s Member States to reaffirm that organ’s responsibilities in upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It made a valuable contribution towards achieving success of the Millennium Summit aimed at the overall strengthening of the United Nations. Last but not least, the Council’s Summit made a number of important commitments to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in addressing challenges to peace and security, which were recorded in its unanimously adopted declaration (resolution 1318 (2000), annex).

Today, after the first six-month period since the adoption of the declaration, Ukraine, as it assumes the presidency of the Security Council, proposes to hold an open debate aimed at evaluating concrete results in its implementation. In suggesting the holding of such a debate, Ukraine proceeds from the assumption of the importance of conducting regular reviews of the practical implementation of the decisions taken by the Council.

In order to make this debate more concrete and consequential, the President of the Security Council would like to put to the delegations the following questions:

- The Council has come to an understanding about the need to give special attention to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa; how effectively is this understanding being translated into practical action?
- The Council stated its determination to give equal priority to the maintenance of international peace and security in every region of the world; are there any “forgotten” conflicts or situations which need greater attention on the part of the Council?
- The Council expressed its resolve to strengthen the United Nations peacekeeping operations and it is demonstrating its willingness to produce tangible results in achieving this goal; in particular, over the past six months significant steps have been taken to enhance the potential of the Organization in this area; are there any specific issues related to the task of strengthening peacekeeping which require more energetic efforts by the Council?
- The Council pledged to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in addressing conflict at all stages, from prevention to settlement to post-conflict peace-building; since this challenging objective requires the strengthening and improvement of the entire range of instruments of peace that the Council has at its disposal, what specific areas have been overlooked in this endeavour?
- The Council encouraged the development of comprehensive international strategies to address the root causes of conflicts; how effectively has the Council itself been contributing to the realization of this objective?
- The Council urged the strengthening of cooperation and communication between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations; what concrete progress has been achieved so far in this area, and is there any need for institutional reinforcement of such cooperation?

Appendix

Major ideas, initiatives and messages presented during the Summit

At the Security Council Summit, opened by the Security Council President, the President of the Republic of Mali Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, speeches were presented by the 16 participants, namely (in consecutive order):

The United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan, the President of the United States Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, the President of the Argentine Republic Mr. Fernando de la Rúa, the President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Jiang Zemin, the President of the French Republic Mr. Jacques Chirac, the President of the Republic of Namibia Mr. Sam Nujoma, the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin, the President of the Republic of Tunisia Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the President of Ukraine Mr. Leonid Kuchma, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Jean Chretien, the Prime Minister of Jamaica Mr. Percival James Patterson, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Mr. Wim Kok, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mr. Tony Blair, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, the President of the Republic of Mali Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare.

The distinguished participants stressed upon a number of principles, initiatives and messages, that could be outlined as follows (the list is not exhaustive).

A. General elements

- The United Nations must strengthen efforts to improve respect for human rights, protect persons belonging to national minorities, establish truly representative and participatory political systems and improve health and education standards.
- The Security Council should, at all times, uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
- This is exclusive purview of the Security Council to authorize the use of force in international relations — except in cases where the right to self-defence is being exercised — as well as to employ effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace.
- It should attach equal importance to and undertake swift responses to breaches of international peace and security in all regions of the world.
- In all cases, the Security Council should be guided by three elements: a need to summon the will to act preventively (before a crisis reaches the point of no return), a need to have the ability to act, and a need to act effectively and decisively.
- The Security Council has to focus on the prevention of armed conflicts by building a culture of peace.
- When the Security Council acts in solidarity and unity, the most complicated problems are resolved.

- Disputes, if any, must be settled through dialogue, negotiation and consultation.
- There was a stress, that wilful use of force and interference in the internal affairs of other countries in the name of humanitarianism not only run counter to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.
- There was a proposal that the principle of non-intervention should be respected, but at the same time a complementary value should be added: the principle of non-indifference.
- The international community [should] formulate a joint, objective vision of certain concepts such as solidarity, the protection of human rights and development issues.
- To meet the needs of the times, it is imperative for the Security Council to reform itself where necessary so as to strengthen its role, maintain its authority and improve its efficiency.
- There was a view that the existence of a veto power was anachronistic and undemocratic.
- Any reform of the Security Council should adequately reflect the will of the majority of the United Nations Member States.
- In order to maintain its full authority, the Council must be more representative with respect to the membership in the Organization.
- One of the key orientations should be strengthening of the partnership between the Security Council, the Secretariat and regional organizations and initiatives.

B. Conflicts and crises

- The most important task is to improve the United Nations anti-crisis potential.
- It is a high need to develop a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy.
- The establishment of United Nations regional centres for conflict prevention could become one of the first steps to implement such a strategy.
- It is also important to expand further the range of instruments required for the maintenance of peace and security. In this context, conflict prevention operations should gain prominence as a qualitatively new model of peacekeeping activities.
- Strategies for conflict prevention should be developed in close coordination with regional or subregional organizations.
- In order to enable United Nations peacekeeping operations to work better, it is essential to treat symptoms and remove the root causes that lead to conflicts at the same time.
- The United Nations system must manage a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to address the root causes of conflict.
- The United Nations must take on board all the consequences of the changing nature of conflicts, which are increasingly internal in origin.

- The Security Council should give more attention to situations of humanitarian crisis involving the civilian population.
- The Security Council should draw special attention to the so-called frozen conflicts in the post-Soviet region.
- The world community needs to tackle the causes, and when the causes are underdevelopment and lack of democracy, of the rule of law and of respect for human rights, the Secretary-General should be able to bring them to the Security Council's attention and use his power of mobilization.
- The United Nations has to stem the rising tide of refugees and internally displaced persons.
- The prevention of conflicts, the implementation of treaties on human rights and on international humanitarian law and the protection of the most vulnerable as well as other important reasons require the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- The United Nations must tackle everything that finances and fuels conflicts, such as the illegal exploitation of natural resources; drug trafficking; and small arms accumulations.
- Due attention should be given to such root causes of conflict, as poverty and underdevelopment.
- The United Nations increasingly has to deal with warlords or States that refuse to keep the commitments that they have made in peace agreements. Credible and respected peace agreements are the key to the effectiveness of the United Nations action.

C. Sanctions

- When the Security Council resorts to sanctions, it must summon the will and the wisdom to ensure that those sanctions are effectively enforced and that they reach intended target without inflicting unnecessary collateral hardships.
- The United Nations should develop a clear and coherent methodology for the imposition and lifting of sanctions that takes into consideration the concerns of innocent civilian populations and the interests of third countries.
- Sanctions must be proportionate to their objective.
- There is a need to ensure that the sanctions regimes are reviewed, eased or lifted so as not to prolong the agony of the affected peoples.
- Sanctions regimes should not be open-ended. However, they remain a valuable tool to use in various situations where wars and rebel atrocities are fuelled by the illegal trade in diamonds and other natural resources.
- There is a need to set up a permanent body within the Secretariat to control illegal trafficking of all high-value commodities.

D. Peacekeeping operations

- The United Nations and its peacekeepers cannot be the answer to every crisis, and every conflict, and every threat to human life. Nor can United Nations peacekeeping be a substitute for the political will of the parties to achieve a peaceful settlement.
- Facts proved that the success of the United Nations peacekeeping operations depends on the observance of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly the principles of respect for State sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs, seeking prior consent of the parties concerned, neutrality and the non-use of force except for self-defence.
- The United Nations should sum up its past experience and lessons. It is true that the peacekeeping operations have contributed to international peace and security, but they are not a panacea.
- It is a priority task to develop strategies for peacekeeping and peace-building, including those for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.
- There was statement that only the Security Council has the right to sanction such an extreme measure as the use of force in a crisis situation. When so acting the Security Council has a special responsibility to clearly define the mandate and rules for conducting a peacekeeping operation.
- The Council and the Secretariat should make every effort to engage Member States, particularly potential troop contributors, at the planning stage and at every subsequent phase of the operation.
- The United Nations peacekeeping operations should be strengthened through, i.a., suitable mandates that include cooperation with the civilian population, an improved planning capability, rapid deployment of peace operations, and good coordination among participants in the field.

i. Mandate

- When the Security Council is asking to deploy a peacekeeping operation, it must ensure a clear, achievable mandate.
- The Security Council mandates should enable operations to address root causes of conflicts (if appropriate). In this context, strong support deserve such issues as poverty eradication, sustainable development, democracy, good governance, rule of law and prolongation of human rights as foundations of lasting peace.
- The objectives of the peacekeeping operations must be in line with the operating mandate and the resources provided.
- When necessary the mandate should include rules on the protection of civilians.

ii. Personnel

- Peacekeeping operations should be established only when there is assurance of adequate and well-trained and equipped personnel from Member States.

- The United Nations needs to be able to have peacekeepers who can be rapidly deployed, properly trained and equipped, and able to project credible force.
- States must provide the United Nations with the right quality and quantity of personnel and equipment.
- The most recent conflicts have shown that troops and civilian personnel should be efficiently trained.

iii. Financing

- The financing of peacekeeping operations should be sufficient, and the permanent Members of this Council should have a special responsibility in this regard. The need for a gradual approach and the situation of developing countries should also be taken into account when reviewing the financing of these operations.
- Budget concerns must not be a paralyzing constraint from the outset.
- The United Nations finances need to be consolidated.

iv. The perpetrators of crimes

- The perpetrators of crimes that offend the common conscience of humankind cannot be left unpunished.
- Necessary action must be taken against those who capture power by illegally overthrowing any constitutionally elected Government.

E. Women

- Women should not be seen as mere victims of war.
- There is a need to take concrete measures to ensure a greater role of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

F. Children

- Additional efforts and initiatives are needed to put an end to targeting of children in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement, recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of international law.
- To establish child-soldier-free zones in various parts of the world.

G. African issues

- The United Nations and its Security Council should pay greater attention to Africa and increase their input into that continent.
- The United Nations and its Security Council should more closely coordinate their activities with the peacekeeping efforts of the African nations themselves.

- In dealing with problems facing Africa, the United Nations and the Security Council should fully respect the sovereignty of African countries, pay close attention to the opinions of African countries and regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, take effective measures to keep African countries away from poverty and warfare and help African peoples onto the road to tranquillity, development and rejuvenation.
- The painful conflicts in Africa have diverse causes that require integrated responses which combine the essential elements of peace and security with sustainable development, representative democracy and the rule of law.
- These conflicts should be examined by the Security Council with special sensitivity, which can only be reached through direct knowledge of the reality and greater coordination with regional organizations and other United Nations organs.
- Recent events have demonstrated the invaluable role that regional and subregional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States can play in maintaining or restoring international peace and security in Africa.

H. Disarmament, as concerns weapons of mass destruction

- Striving for general and complete disarmament is the United Nations commitment.
- The United Nations must work towards effective international legal standards to control the circulation of light weapons.
- It was called for all States to ratify and implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

I. Issues of high concern

i. HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases

- Today there is crucial need to pay special attention to problems that kill massively, cross borders and destabilize whole regions — infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS.

ii. Ecology and health

- There is a need to invest in the basics: clean water, safe food, good sanitation and health education. The United Nations must make sure that the advancements in science work for all people.
- There is a need to meet by concrete contributions the challenge of climate change.
- There was a word of support to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and other objectives that will reduce the environmental threats.

iii. Poverty

- The United Nations must advance the broader agenda to fight the poverty that breeds conflict and war.
- Broad-based economic growth helps to reduce poverty as a root cause of conflict and must, therefore, be part of conflict prevention strategies.

iv. Education

- There was a word of support to the goal of universal access to primary education by 2015.

v. Debt relief

- The idea of relieving debt, if the savings will be invested in the human needs of the people, is an idea whose time came long ago, and the world community has to do much more.
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