



TOWARDS A RAPID REACTION CAPABILITY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

15. In order to develop a pool of expertise to assist the UN in responding to urgent situations, Member States should explore the advance identification of personnel with expertise in relevant areas who could be seconded into the UN Secretariat for short-term assignments. (Page 49)

16. The Secretary-General, in conjunction with interested Member States, should establish a permanent UN operational-level headquarters, which would be a standing, fully-deployable, integrated, multinational group of approximately 30 to 50 personnel, augmented in times of crisis, to conduct contingency planning and rapid deployment as authorized by the Security Council.

To ensure multidimensionality, the headquarters should contain a significant civil affairs branch with linkages to the key humanitarian and other agencies and the non-governmental sectors. (Page 51)

17. The operational-level headquarters should be tasked to undertake generic contingency planning when early-warning mechanisms are triggered as well as liaison with regional organizations and agencies, and a wide variety of training objectives. (Page 51)

18. The United Nations should develop a vanguard concept which would link the operational-level headquarters with tactical elements provided by Member States to the Secretary-General through the standby arrangements system. (Page 52)

19. The Secretary-General and Member States should consider organizing standby units into multinational "capability components", corresponding to function (observation force, humanitarian assistance force, ceasefire monitoring force, etc.) with appropriate training and exercising to enhance readiness. These capability components might include some of the newer tasks of multidimensional operations (natural disaster relief, humanitarian emergencies), working in close conjunction with other sectors of the UN and non-governmental organizations. (Page 52)

20. Member States should work with the United Nations to ensure the availability of qualified civilian personnel, in such areas as civilian police, human rights, legal advisors, election observers, etc., to serve in peace operations.

Member States should be invited to sponsor training sessions leading toward the creation of rosters of experts for urgent missions. (Page 53)

21. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, should develop a set of generic and mission specific training standards and "type" curricula applicable to all troop contributing nations. Member States with standby arrangements with the Secretary-General should provide the UN with annual training summaries outlining the training activities undertaken and proposed for those units identified in the standby arrangements system. (Page 54)

22. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, should establish a High-Level Group of Technological Experts to study the potential application of advanced technologies to strengthen the UN's effectiveness in peace operations and its capacity to react more rapidly to crisis situations. (Page 58)