



TOWARDS A RAPID REACTION CAPABILITY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

The Report's recommendations for the short to medium term should provide the UN with an effective rapid-reaction capability. But reform may be a slow process, and the search for what is readily attainable should not stifle vision as to what may be necessary over the longer term. The Report therefore advocates continued thinking about logical next steps, should short and medium term reforms prove insufficient. Four separate issues are addressed: the need to harness advanced technologies in support of the UN's peace operations; the creation of a permanent group of civilian police to address chronic shortfalls in this area; the creation of a UN Standing Emergency Group, composed of directly-recruited volunteers; and the need for the UN to secure an independent source of revenue over the long term. In each case, the Report advocates a process of continued study, to help advance the degree of international consensus on these issues.

The Report also devotes substantial attention to financial questions, recognizing that short to medium term recommendations must take into account the current financial crisis of the UN and that all recommendations must be responsible in their implications for the UN and the international community. Through better partnership arrangements with the private sector and the non-governmental communities, however, as well as with new ways of doing business in the UN Secretariat, it is likely that many of the Report's recommendations will lead to substantial reductions in peacekeeping costs for the UN through greater efficiencies in operation.

The 26 recommendations are re-stated in the concluding chapter of the Report.