



## TOWARDS A RAPID REACTION CAPABILITY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

by New Zealand and Argentina, in cooperation with the UK, to increase the role of troop-contributing nations. These efforts led to an important presidential statement of 4 November, 1994, on consultation. But they have not yet matured to the point where they are considered adequate by most troop contributors. To sustain the support of those providing personnel to peace operations, troop contributors need more than perfunctory consultation. They need greater and more formal involvement from the onset of mission planning.

For these reasons, formal *ad hoc* Troop Contributors Committees (TCC), consisting of all Member States contributing to a mission, should be formed for each UN peace operation. The Committee would be the formal vehicle for the transmission of national views to the Secretary-General and Security Council on operational issues relevant to the specific mission. To enhance rapid reaction to crisis situations, TCCs could be created as mandates are developed and as contributors are approached for participation, but prior to action in the Security Council. This would permit examination of the Secretary-General's emerging plan for the operation, including such issues as command and control arrangements and rules of engagement. Consideration of these types of questions in a TCC would help the Security Council in arriving at decisions on mandates by ensuring that operations were supported by potential troop contributing nations.

To build on formal mission-specific committees, it would also be useful to establish an institution where troop contributors could share their expertise and experience on a range of general operational issues which cut across many peacekeeping operations. This type of operational discussion would complement the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the acknowledged policy organ reporting to the General Assembly. The most appropriate body would be a formal Troop Contributors Forum, consisting of leading or major Member States engaged in peace operations or having standby arrangements with the UN. The Forum would meet regularly to discuss issues in the Standby Arrangements System and technical issues including logistics and transportation.

These institutional innovations have a strong bearing on the ability of the UN to deploy personnel rapidly. Better consultative arrangements for troop contributors would instill greater confidence among troop contributing nations, promote the availability of more personnel, help to enhance quality and preparedness for a larger number of missions, and assist the UN in ensuring a faster, more effective response to crisis.

- 1. In order to build upon current practice and institutionalize a formal consultative process involving nations contributing to an operation, the UN Secretariat and Security Council members, Member States should establish a Troop Contributors Committee for each peace operation.**

**Member States should also establish a Troop Contributors Forum, comprised of leading or major troop-contributing nations, which would meet periodically to review general peacekeeping issues of an operational nature and provide a formal voice to troop contributors.**

---

**Better consultative arrangements for troop contributors would instill greater confidence among troop contributing nations, promote the availability of more personnel, help to enhance quality and preparedness for a larger number of missions, and assist the UN in ensuring a faster, more effective response to crisis**

---