

Status Update on Implementation of the Brahimi Report

Summary:

Victoria Holt, Senior Associate, The Henry L. Stimson Center

Ms. Holt reviewed the implementation status of reforms recommended by the August 2000 report of the *Panel on United Nations Peace Operations*, referred to as the “Brahimi Report.” This work is part of her Stimson Center project (www.stimson.org/fopo) that tracks these and related reforms and works to see them implemented. Since the report’s release, the UN has undertaken new peacebuilding missions (e.g. Afghanistan) and transitioned peacekeeping operations (e.g. Sierra Leone, Bosnia, East Timor, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo). But it has not taken on any new UN peacekeeping operations that would test its capacity (e.g., changes in peacekeeping doctrine and strategy, achieving clear and credible mandates – such as threshold conditions being met – assembling leadership at the U.N. prior to deployment, funding DDR with the deployment, and providing strategic guidance to mission leaders.)

Holt reviewed the state of progress on most of the major Panel recommendations. Substantive progress has been made on: the creation of Strategic Deployment Stocks and refurbishing of the UN Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy; hiring of new staff for, and structural adjustments within, the DPKO; creation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in missions such as UNMEE; endorsement of more fact-finding missions; creation of an on-call list of 100 military officers within UNSAS; pre-commitment authority for the Secretary General; adoption of a definition of rapid deployment within 30/90 days for traditional/complex peacekeeping missions; and a doctrinal shift in use of civilian police, rule of law elements and human rights experts.

Partially-implemented recommendations include: the creation of an Integrated Mission Task Force for Afghanistan (without full decision-making capacity); improvement of the UN Standby Arrangement System (needs fuller participation, more enabling forces and lift capacity, and listing of coherent brigade-sized units); writing of an Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS) peacebuilding strategy (without