

reviewed in order to determine if there are deficiencies in the system, improvements to be made and, more generally, lessons to be learned. In this way, the early warning system and individuals involved should "learn from experience" over time.

*** The EW unit should be provided with sufficient analytical skills to carry out its mandate.**

Comment: None of the bodies currently tasked with early warning have a sufficient analytical capacity. For the ambitious mandate of early warning, much information must be analysed and corroborated, leads must be followed and new information requirements identified. Formulations of potential scenarios and their continual modification, after checks against reality, are necessary. The Information and Research (I&R) Unit of the DPKO Situation Centre has demonstrated the capacity for this. This positive experience should be useful to the proposed EW unit.

*** Required information and potential information sources should be actively identified.**

Comment: Currently, the UN EW systems work in a passive information collection mode, which is only the first stage. As part of the feedback loop in the information system, analysis of incoming information should result in the identification of further information requirements. Often, these are crucial facts which must be "sought out." It is important to follow up leads and "hunches" in the second stage. Of course, the EW unit should be aware of limits imposed by international law and UN policies on its information-gathering activities.

*** The EW unit should be able to draw upon national information and intelligence agencies.**

Comment: National agencies sometimes have the most crucial information (e.g., on current troop positions, obtained by satellite, and illicit arms imports, obtained from assets). The Information and Research (I&R) Unit of the DPKO Situation Centre maintains very useful links with national intelligence services. HEWS, which is currently tasked with an ambitious EW mandate, lacks any such contacts. It is vital that the proposed EW unit be in communication with such bodies, since they often have crucial information necessary for early warning. Of course, it may be necessary to corroborate reports from several agencies and sources to avoid inaccuracies and national biases.

*** Bring UN human rights agencies into close contact with the early warning unit.**