

behest of the more powerful members of the Security Council, are aspects that need to be resolved in context of the restructuring of the Security Council. Utilization of such a force is premised on its early replacement by another force duly constituted by the United Nations, by regional organizations, or by a multinational force, as decided by the international community.

(viii) **The use of force in self-defense**

**It is generally well known that traditional peacekeeping operations do not preclude the use of force in self-defense; but what is not generally well known is that the use of force in self defense can be extended to such use in execution of the provisions of a mandate.** There have been many instances where troops operating on such missions have resorted to the use of force ranging from the classic interpretation of protecting one's own person from attack, to using armed force against those who attempt to interfere with the execution of the mission, whether it be protection of a designated area, or a convoy carrying humanitarian aid, or dealing with mercenaries acting against the lawful government, or any other such operation.<sup>4</sup> The Security Council mandate setting up such operations must unambiguously state that such use of force is authorized, and more importantly, ensure that the contingents are equipped for the purpose. The rules of engagement for each mission are drawn up by the Force Commander or Head of Mission, based on the mandate, the resources available to the force, the terms of the agreement arrived at with the parties to the conflict, the prevailing ground situation, and other relevant considerations.

(ix) **Worst case scenarios**

**It would be prudent to ensure that all future peace operations contingents be equipped for the "worst case" scenario, so that they can respond appropriately in self defense in case attacked.** This would be prudent in the light of recent experiences of dealing with intra-state conflict situations. In all operations other than those that fall in the category of Chapter VII operations of the UN Charter, it is to be assumed that the use of force will be restricted to the minimum necessary to deal with a given situation, and without any bias. It is however essential that troop contributors are made aware of the heightened dangers to their personnel in the worst case scenario. The rules of engagement must then include this provision for dissemination to all personnel in the mission. Parties to the conflict must also be made aware of the fact, and application of such force executed in an unbiased manner.

(x) **Enforcement action**

**In cases where enforcement action under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter is considered the appropriate response, there has to be adequate political will, including the will to bear the possible human cost of the military operation; the will and capacity to absorb the financial burden; and the availability of troops well prepared and equipped for the task.** This is a rather tall order for the United Nations to be expected to fulfil. For the foreseeable future, it would appear that military action to counter flagrant breach