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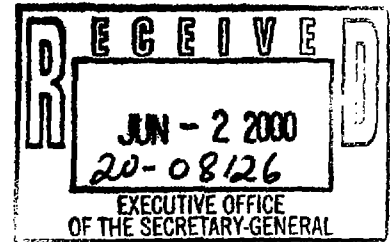
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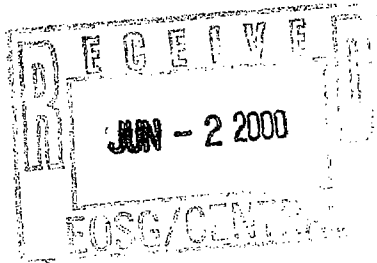
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**Note to the Members of the**  
**Executive Committee on Peace and Security**



Attached please find the provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, to be held on Monday, 5 June at 3:00 pm in Room S-3770F.



Kieran Prendergast

Kieran Prendergast  
1 June 2000

**Distribution list**

Mr. Annabi	Ms. Mc Askie
Mrs. Bellamy	Mr. Corell
Mr. Dhanapala	Mr. Diabre
Mr. Fall	Mr. Malloch Brown
Mr. Miyet	Mrs. Ogata/Mr. Asomani
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Mrs. Robinson/Mr. Ndiaye	Mr. Sevan
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cc: Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Riza ✓  
 Mr. Bassiouni Mr. Doss  
 Ms. Lindenmayer Mr. Scholvinck  
 Office of the Spokesman DPA Directors

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## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND SECURITY**

**5 June 2000, 3:00 pm**

### ***Provisional Agenda***

#### **1. Nagorny-Karabak**

Briefing by UNDP and DPA on the Geneva Meeting of the OSCE Minsk Co-Chairs with the International Assistance Community.

#### **2. NPT Conference**

Briefing by DDA on the outcomes of the Conference.

#### **3. Ferghana Valley**

Briefing by DPA on recent developments (see attached documents).

#### **4. Other Matters**

## **Internal**

### **Inter-agency Framework Team Joint Session with UN Country Teams on Ferghana Valley**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan 1-2 May 2000**

Following extensive consultations in the field and headquarters on the situation in the Ferghana Valley, including a series of meetings in New York of the Framework for Coordination, the UN mechanism for early warning, prevention and preparedness, a Coordination Meeting was convened in Almaty on 1-2 May 2000 with the UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and with members from the Framework Team at Headquarters. In the meeting participated also area and regional representatives from the agencies represented in the Framework Team.

The meeting had UNDP and UNICEF as co-host, and UNDP and UNICEF arranged the logistical arrangements in collaboration. The meeting was considered an internal, informal consultation. The list of participants is attached as Annex A.

The discussions were structured under three headings: Political and Security Dimensions, Contingency Planning, and Preventive Development.

In the purposes of the meeting outlined in the letter of invitation, it was envisaged, that proposals for action in the areas discussed might usefully be forwarded for endorsement to subsequent meetings of the Executive Committees on Peace and Security and Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Development Group respectively.

Below is outlined the main observations and recommendations as agreed by the participants at the meeting:

#### **Main Observations and Recommendations**

##### **Session 1: Political, Social, Economic and Security Dimensions**

Recognizing the many good efforts being taken within and outside the Central Asian region to maintain peace and stability and progress achieved, participants nevertheless concluded that the Ferghana Valley represents an evolving scenario with potential for conflict which could have serious humanitarian implications. Deeply rooted problems, which continue to exacerbate the situation, will remain aggravating factors until they are addressed in a timely and comprehensive manner. The following could trigger violence: political confrontation, religious extremism and excessive use of force to suppress it, international terrorism, and inter-ethnic tensions. Economic and social disparities, epidemic unemployment and criminalization of societies continue to exacerbate tensions and are long term contributors to crisis tendencies. The trafficking of drugs remains a major contributor to violence and a threat to peace in the region.

The legacy of the civil war in Tajikistan represents an area of major concern and includes the unresolved problems of Jumo Namangani, the existence of non-integrated armed groups. The Namangani group represents a regional threat. Attempts to resolve the problem by force by the governments concerned could trigger a crisis that could have severe humanitarian

implications. The Hezbi el Tahrir Islamic extremist party has emerged recently as a new trans-border concern.

The possibility of a repetition of the Bakhten incident of last year can not be excluded. If such developments were to occur, it could drag into action non-integrated armed elements that would increase the seriousness and expand the scale of the situation. It would also very likely cause higher levels of casualties, displacement of population and destruction of property than the incident of last year.

Potential deterioration in northern Afghanistan connected to a probable offensive by the Taliban is of special concern. If successful, a massive influx of refugees could be created and a new security and geo-political situation may emerge. The Ferghana Valley could become accessible to extremists from Afghanistan by way of the Karategin Valley. In this case the scale of the crisis would be much broader.

The above mentioned scenarios and areas of tension are unfolding against a background of deep economic decline in the region caused by transitional processes including the breakdown of former economic ties and social safety nets. For the residents of the region this results in a traumatic decline in economic standards and soaring unemployment, particularly among young adults, which has made the region more unstable. Against this background, as has happened in the recent past, terrorist acts and violent incidents could trigger conflict in many locations.

Measures undertaken by the 3 governments, individually and collectively, are changing the dynamics in the region and participants concluded that conflict scenarios are not inevitable and can be avoided. In order to support governments in their efforts, the following should be considered at Headquarters and at UN Country Team levels:

1. Consider high level UN contacts with the governments of the region with a view to work out cooperative approaches in addressing issues of development and conflict prevention.
2. Bring the issue of Ferghana Valley to the agenda of the UN Executive Committees on Peace and Security, on Humanitarian Affairs and the Development Group, to enhance coordination among UN departments, programmes and agencies.
3. Promote political resolution of the Namangani group problem (disarmament and resettlement) so as to help avoid conflict in Tajikistan. (The relevant appeals can be considered at the Headquarters and country team levels with countries concerned.)
4. Promote the culture of tolerance and confidence through mass media and the mobilization of social support, giving particular attention to youth.
5. Create and strengthen partnership networks for conflict prevention in the region with the participation of UN agencies and programmes, international organizations, NGOs and the academic community.
6. Encourage governments at all levels to respect the obligations undertaken by them in accordance with international law and conventions, especially those relevant to human rights and the protection of civilians in emergency situations.

## **Main Observations and Recommendations**

### **Session 2: Conflict preparedness & Contingency Planning**

1. The participating UN agencies are committed to helping the countries of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan be ready to meet the needs of humanitarian emergencies which they may encounter. This includes a commitment by these UN agencies to help build up the in-country emergency preparedness and response capabilities, including those of the respective Governments.
2. The participants agree on the need for contingency planning for the countries concerned. In particular, the Ferghana Valley aspects of each country contingency planning should be developed in close collaboration with UN counterparts in the other two countries, in order to rationalize their planning assumptions and approaches. The Resident Coordinators will determine practical mechanisms (many of which will necessarily be kept informal) for follow-on information exchange and (to the extent feasible) further joint planning. The Country Teams should also liaise with the Afghanistan Country Team, e.g., regarding possible refugee flows from Afghanistan.
3. UN Country Teams should be provided (perhaps by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee) with information regarding the agreed international legal basis (and any special legal instruments signed by the country in question) for humanitarian assistance and protection in complex emergencies. This information is needed to be able to dialogue effectively with the national Governments in advance of an emergency regarding the proper UN role in any complex emergency, the responsibilities which the Government would bear in such a situation (e.g., regarding protection of refugees and internally displaced persons), and the UN's mandate for contingency planning and preparedness efforts. The Country Teams will, through their agency headquarters and/or Resident Coordinators, inform the UN Framework Team of any needs for assistance in reaching agreement with the Governments regarding these matters.
4. Agreed inter-agency contingency planning guidelines should be finalized by headquarters as quickly as possible, regarding both the planning document as well as the larger planning process. Guidelines and recommendations for carrying out and coordinating inter-agency preparedness actions should also be rapidly developed and disseminated by headquarters.
5. It is important for the participating agencies to share copies of their agency contingency plans with the other agencies in the Country Team, and to develop consensus on the common inter-agency core elements.
6. It is crucial for each Country Team to reach agreement regarding the overall division of labour and coordinating responsibilities for the projected emergency response, in particular with the Government concerned. This should include a commitment to undertaking the necessary preparedness actions.
7. The Country Teams will identify practical preparedness measures they need to, and can, take now regarding security for UN staff and resources, emergency medical evacuation, telecommunications, and joint logistics efforts.
8. Capacity-building efforts should be undertaken in-country (and regionally), both for the UN agencies as well as the larger group of humanitarian entities, to ensure that the needs of at least moderate levels of persons in need of humanitarian aid (in the low tens of thousands) can be met primarily with resources already in-country, or quickly available from outside.

## **Main Observations and Recommendations**

### **Session 3: Conflict prevention and development cooperation**

The UN system role in the countries in transition, in general, is to support the transition to an open democratic society and a market economy. It is thus to help bring about major changes in the governance and economic structures in the context of sustainable human development.

Violent conflict incurs far-reaching implications with particular consequences for children, destruction of social fabrics, institutions and coping mechanisms. It often eradicates decades of development gains, and it leads to lost opportunities for development as funding is siphoned off into emergency relief.

Development will be sustainable only if development strategies incorporate concern for their impact on tensions that could lead to violence and promote measures to counteract such tensions. Development assistance should therefore identify more systematically structural risk factors (such as inequitable resource distribution and discrimination, exclusion, burden sharing, displacement and resettlement), and measure the impact of development strategies and different types technical cooperation interventions on the risk of violent conflict.

In the case of the Ferghana valley, development work should be conceived and carried out through a "conflict lens". This requires a good understanding of the history and root causes of conflict, and also a good understanding of the perceptions and views of the parties to the conflict, so that one addresses those in their particular context and develop strategic options, peace building opportunities, and policy tools.

Development work is one in a range of interventions, going from the political approaches through contingency preparedness (session 2) to working with inter-state institutions in the region, however imperfect they may be.

The participants expressed their commitment to integrating a conflict prevention perspective in their development cooperation activities and stressed the following aspects:

1. "traditional" development concerns such as agriculture, jobs, livelihoods, health, education, water supply and sanitation, population;
2. focussing activities in such fields in a given region —"area development programs";
3. strengthening the legal frameworks, the policies and the institutions that could manage the peaceful resolution of conflict;
4. support national efforts to strengthen the rule of law; human rights and democratization
5. capacity building at all levels of administrations, and civil society;
6. trafficking in, and use of, narcotic drugs;
7. youth represent a major proportion of the population of the Ferghana valley and of the countries in general (50 per cent of the population of Tajikistan is under 17). Youth are the main potential for change, as well as the main group at risk. Therefore there is a need to open minds, create capacities and opportunities;

8. traditional social structures should be used and strengthened whenever possible;
9. assistance should be provided to strengthen inter-state regional cooperation institutions to enable it to address effectively common shared problems in the region;
10. development cooperation activities should promote equity, equality and justice for all. This is essential in ensuring that these activities promote sustainable human development, social cohesion and the prevention of violent conflict;
11. Work in this area should take a long term perspective, and focus on confidence building measure in the short term.

Therefore, country teams should work on inter-agency approaches to development activities for their countries, with particular references to their respective areas of the Ferghana Valley as appropriate. Such integrated or joint programs should then be presented jointly to donors for the substantial funding needed if the programs are to be effective. This could be carried out during the year 2000.