

POLITICALLY speaking

in 2018



COVER:

Kabul, 16 May 2018 – Kids make the most of the last rays of sun to finish a game.

UNAMA Photo/Najeeb Farzad

Adapting to a Rapidly Changing World



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

CONFLICT PREVENTION, mediation and conflict resolution are the cornerstones of the work of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA). Today, the need to adapt to deal with a rapidly changing conflict landscape is clear. Violent conflict has increased after decades of relative decline. Direct deaths in war, displaced populations, military spending, and terrorist incidents have all surged in the past twenty years, as detailed in the recent UN-World Bank “Pathways to Peace” report. Many of the risks we face today – including climate change, violent extremism, organized crime – transcend national borders and make each conflict we deal with more complex and more protracted. Meanwhile, conflict prevention and peacebuilding have remained fragmented and under-funded, while enormous human and material capital is spent on crisis management.

To address these changes, the peace and security pillar of the United Nations, along with other important parts of the Organization, is undergoing a transformation. We are changing to become more nimble, coordinated and, thus, effective in helping countries eliminate extreme poverty, prevent armed conflict and overcome other persistent ills. The adjustments will be large and small. For one, starting in 2019, DPA will be renamed the **Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs**. But the change will be more than cosmetic. We are pooling resources and capacity for analysis and action with our peacekeeping and peacebuilding colleagues to ensure that the UN can anticipate and face threats to peace earlier and with more coherence, as well as design smoother transitions away from conflict.

Success in our work depends not only on us but on the support of different parties, including those we are trying to help. I applaud the dedication and commitment shown by my colleagues around the world. And I have seen the active cooperation of parties trying to move beyond conflict. In the pages of this year-end edition of *Politically Speaking*, you will see some of the results of DPA’s work to prevent conflict, mediate disputes and provide electoral support, among other efforts. Come 1 January 2019, our name will change. Our commitment to helping societies avert war and build peace will not.

Rosemary A. DiCarlo

Rosemary A. DiCarlo
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Afghanistan



25 July 2018, Kabul – The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) signed an agreement with the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to commit international financial support for Afghanistan's elections. The agreement enabled enhanced contributions to Afghanistan's electoral budget, with donors pledging to fund an additional \$57 million to the elections budget, in addition to pledging ongoing assistance to the IEC and the Electoral Complaints Commission.

UNAMA Photo/Fardin Waezi



05 November 2018, Herat – A series of UNAMA-backed theatrical performances drew hundreds of children from across Afghanistan's western province of Herat to learn about human rights and the impact of the conflict on civilians.

UNAMA Photo/Fraidoon Poya

Central Africa



On 22 September 2018, Special Representative for Central Africa François Louncény Fall participated in the *Route de la Paix* march calling for stability and an end to conflicts around the world. The event took place before the kick-off of the fifth edition of the Peace Tournament in Libreville, Gabon, organized by the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) with the assistance of the NGO *Fédération pour la paix universelle*.

UNOCA Photo/Norbert N. Ouendji.



In October 2018, UNOCA provided technical and substantive support to a delegation from the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) during a mission to Sarh, Maro and Sido in Chad, on the border with the Central African Republic. Pictured is the exchange with local authorities about security challenges related to transhumance and pastoralism.

UNOCA Photo/Axelle Dzikongo

UN Electoral Assistance

ELECTORAL

ASSISTANCE

provided to:

60

Countries

72

Missions
conducted



Under-Secretary-General Rosemary A. DiCarlo is the UN Focal Point for electoral assistance activities and the UN system-wide lead in all matters related to electoral assistance.

including:

6

Workshops &
roundtable
discussions on
key electoral
matters
organized

17

Needs
Assessment
Missions

5

Advisory
Missions

29

Other Electoral
Technical
Missions

210

Officials

4

Regional
Organizations

65

Countries

for

from

covering

All figures as of 30 November 2018

Colombia



A former member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in the Territorial Area for Training and Reintegration (TATR) of Carrizal, Antioquia, Colombia, takes part in an event during which 2,500 trees were planted. The initiative is typical of the efforts made to assist in the social and economic reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian life.

UN Photo/Elizabeth Yarce



On 4 December 2018, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Rosemary A. DiCarlo visited one of the TATR in San José de Oriente, Cesar, Colombia to learn more about projects implemented by ex-combatants as part of their reintegration into civilian life.

UN Verification Mission in Colombia Photo/Liliana Garavito

Cyprus



The United Nations helps keep the peace in Cyprus and hosts a good offices process between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. On 27 October 2018, the peacekeeping mission in Cyprus, UNFICYP, in partnership with the Embassy of Netherlands in Cyprus and the Centre for Visual Arts and Research (CVAR), co-organized a walking tour in South Nicosia followed by a discussion on "Women as Vanguards of the Peace Process in Cyprus." The Head of UNFICYP and Deputy Special Adviser of the Secretary-General Elizabeth Spehar opened the forum.

UNFICYP Photo/Priyanka Chowdhury

As of 30 November 2018, the

Standby Team of Mediation Experts

has been deployed

116X

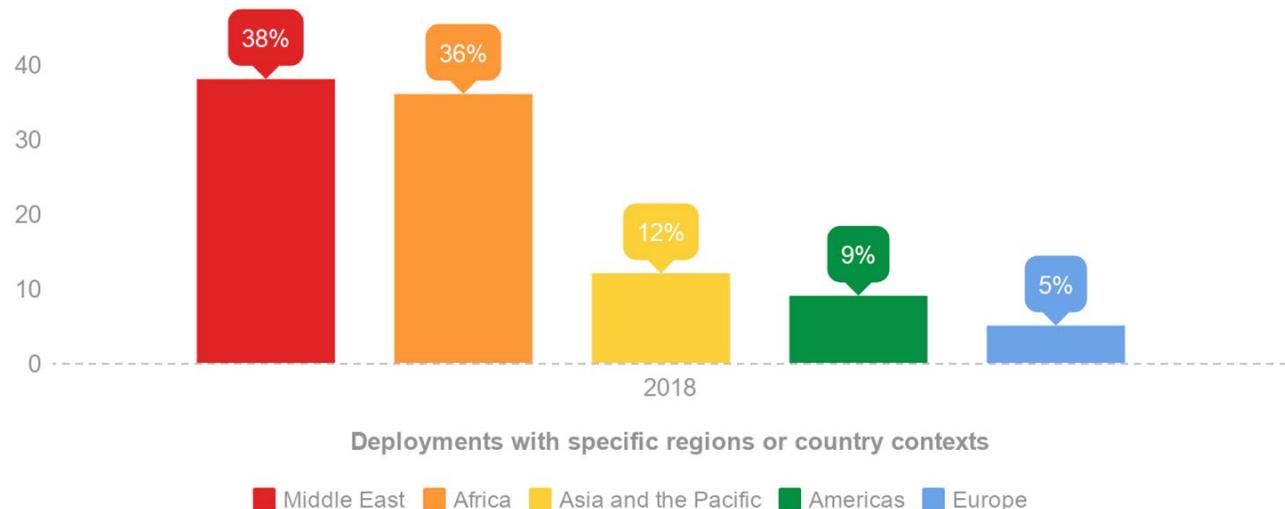
in support of mediation and
capacity-building efforts

and has provided

8X

remote support

Regional Breakdown of Deployments





Lagoon on the way from Nouméa to Koné, New Caledonia, March 2018. UN Photo

Decolonization

More than 80 former colonies have attained independence since the creation of the United Nations. But the process of decolonization is not complete. Presently, 17 territories home to nearly 2 million people in Africa, Europe, the Atlantic, the Caribbean and the Pacific remain on the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs). In March 2018, the Special Committee on Decolonization, supported by DPA's Decolonization Unit, conducted a visit to New Caledonia to support "the Territory in its preparations for the referendum on self-determination". The referendum was held successfully on 4 November 2018. DPA's Electoral Assistance provided support to the organization of the referendum.

Great Lakes Region of Africa



The UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit (left), along with Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Mohammed (centre), a Joint UN-AU Solidarity Mission to South Sudan in July 2018. This was part of a series of missions that also took the Special Envoy to Burundi (9-12 August), the Central African Republic (13-15 August) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (16-19 August) to obtain a political commitment from the leaders of those countries to fully involve women in political and peace processes in the region. Pictured are the Special Envoy, the Deputy Secretary-General; and the African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security Bineta Diop (right).

UN Photo/UNMISS PIO

Iraq



Baghdad electoral recount centre on 1 August 2018 during the manual recount of votes from the 12 May 2018 national elections.

UN Photo/UNAMI PIO

Lebanon



Acting UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Pernille Kardel visited Lebanese army positions along Lebanon's north-eastern border in Ras Baalbek and Arsal, seeing first-hand how the Lebanese army presence had succeeded in extending state authority and security and stability in those areas. Her office plays a central role in encouraging coordinated international support for the Lebanese army and security institutions to reinforce the country's sovereignty, security, stability and territorial integrity.

UN Photo/UNSCOL PIO

Security Council in 2018*



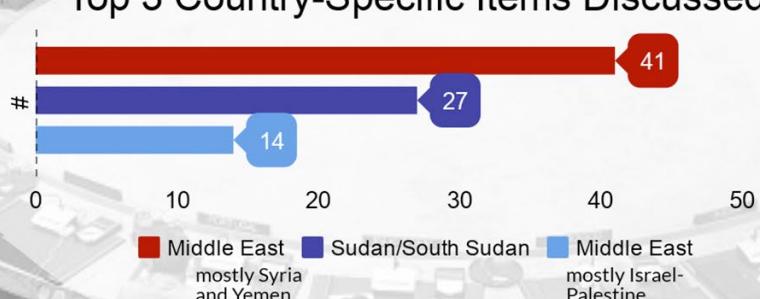
114
Consultations
In-depth, closed-door meetings



260
Meetings
Normally public



49
Resolutions
Formal expressions of the opinion or will of the Security Council, generally legally binding



79
Press Statements

Declaration to the media made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of all 15 Members



18
Presidential Statements
Statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Council, not legally binding

3
Visits

Afghanistan
in January 2018

Bangladesh
and Myanmar
in April/May 2018

Democratic
Republic of
the Congo
in October 2018

*as of 30 November 2018
more information: un.org/sc

Libya

In September 2018, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) hosted successful talks between armed groups, ending a month of fighting in Tripoli and initiating a series of security arrangements intended to replace Tripoli's disruptive militias with professional police and military and deter them from interfering in the functioning of Libyan sovereign institutions. UN Special Representative Ghassan Salame (right) traveled across the country, to leverage the UN Action Plan in order to finally close Libya's long transitional period.

UNSMIL Photo



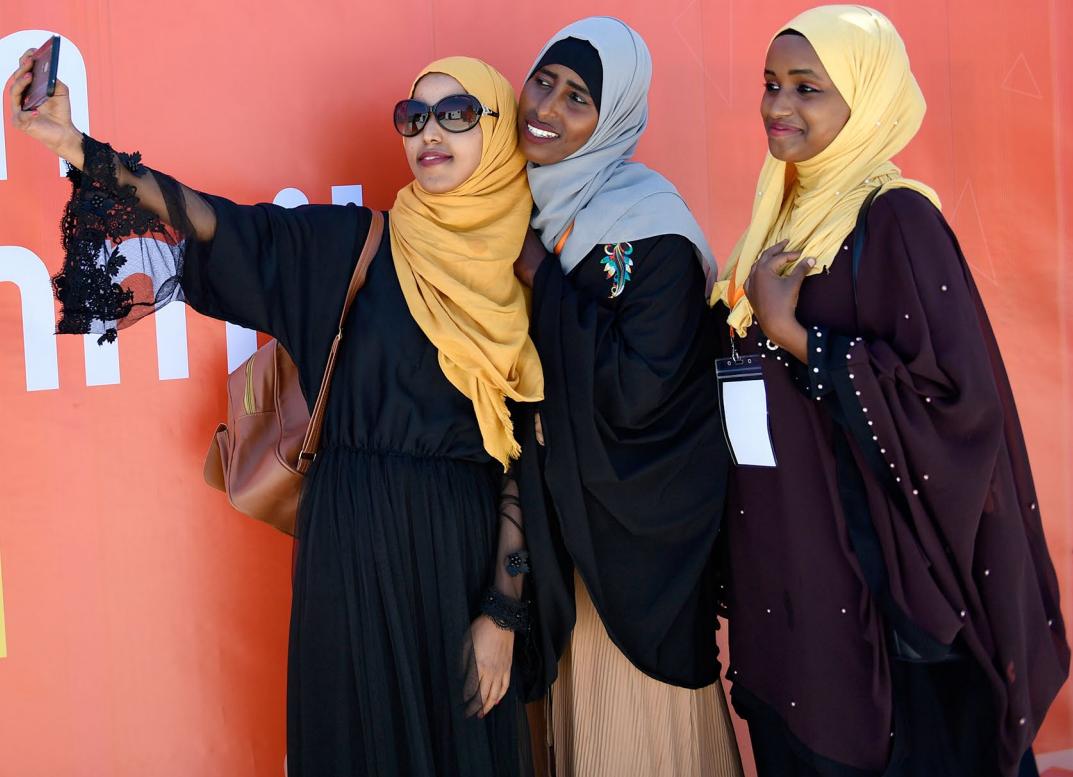
An UNSMIL-facilitated reconciliation agreement resulted in the displaced Tawergha community being allowed to return to their hometown after eight years of exile.

UNSMIL Photo/Abel Kavanaugh



Mogadishu Tech Summit

2018

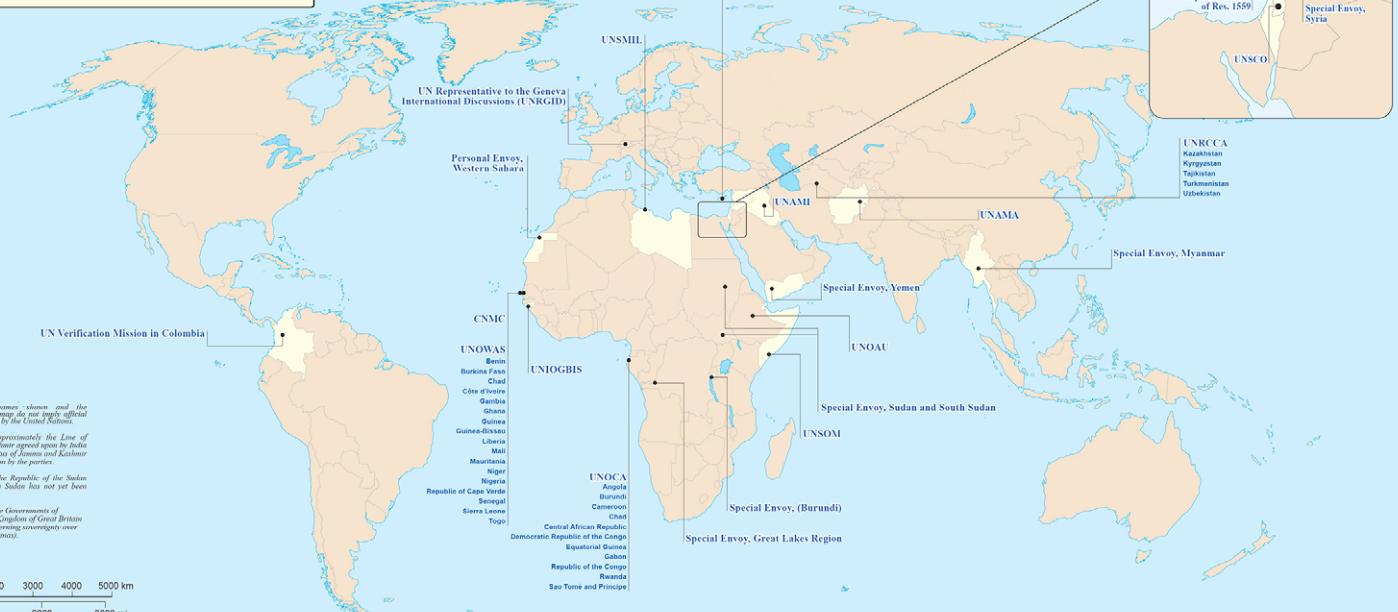


Somalia

26 October 2018, Mogadishu – The first-ever Mogadishu Tech Summit took place in October 2018. The participants – hundreds of Somalis from young entrepreneurs to potential investors – shared perspectives on how digital technological innovations can drive sustainable development, while sharing perspectives on various issues ranging from environmental conservation and overcoming challenges linked to climate change to developing smart cities and building community resilience in the face of challenges that come with urbanization. This UNDP initiative was supported by the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSO) and backed by the local innovation hub iRise, the Federal Government of Somalia and other partners.

UN Photo/UNSO PIO

**SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS AND OTHER
UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL PRESENCES
2018**



Department of Political Affairs

CNMC: United Nations Support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, Dakar

UNAMA: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Kabul

UNAMI: United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, Baghdad

UNOAU: United Nations Office to the African Union, Addis Ababa

UNOCA: United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Libreville

UNOWAS: United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Dakar

UNRCCA: United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Ashgabat

UNSCO: Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Jerusalem

UNSCOL: Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Beirut

UNSCOM: United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Mogadishu

UNSMIL: United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Tripoli

United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Bogotá

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Iraq

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Implementation of Resolution 1559

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region

United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions (UNRGID)

The United Nations Department of Political Affairs also services the following sanctions panels, monitoring groups and other mechanisms:

Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2015) and 2181 (2015) concerning Daesh, Al Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, New York

Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, New York

Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), New York

Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, New York

Panel of Experts on the Sudan, New York

Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, New York

Panel of Experts on Libya, New York

Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, New York

Panel of Experts on Yemen, New York

Panel of Experts on South Sudan, New York

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As of 1 January 2019, DPA becomes DPPA, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.
Look out for corresponding changes in handles and addresses of our web presences.