



UN Management Reform in Progress

Secretary General Kofi Annan has introduced several robust policies to streamline and improve the United Nations. While Congress introduces legislation calling for management reform at the United Nations, it is important to note that several key proposals have already been implemented or is in the process of implementation. It is crucial that the United States support the Secretary General's efforts to reform the Secretariat and other UN agencies.

Enhancing Oversight & Accountability

- A Management Performance Board has been established which will monitor the performance of senior managers and brief the Secretary General on matters that require his attention, including corrective action.
- In accordance with the Volcker Inquiry and the General Assembly, a new Oversight Committee is also being established. The committee will ensure that appropriate management action is taken to implement the recommendations from the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Audit and the Joint Inspection Unit.
- In his report, "In Larger Freedom," Kofi Annan emphasized the importance of strengthening the independence and authority of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and making sure it is adequately resourced. *This recommendation is currently before the General Assembly.*
- The UN is in the process of consolidating a comprehensive anti-fraud and corruption policy based on existing practices and a recent model developed by the World Bank.

Enhancing Performance of the Senior Management

- On May 17, 2005, UN Undersecretary-General Louise Frechette announced the appointment of Christopher Bancroft Burnham, currently the top U.S. State Department finance expert, as the UN's new management chief. His role will be to strengthen accountability, ethical conduct & management performance.
- The Secretary General has also established two executive-level decision making committees – one that deals with Policy matters while the other one focuses on Management issues – in order to speed up top-level decision making.
- A new transparent selection system has been introduced to reach a wider pool of qualified candidates for senior UN positions.

Reforms in peacekeeping missions

- Secretary General Kofi Annan has repeatedly expressed his outrage regarding sexual abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel. In a six-page letter to the UN Security Council, he said, "I reiterate my stance - one which I know the members of the council share - that we cannot tolerate even one instance of a United Nations peacekeeper victimizing the most vulnerable ones." On June 1, 2005, the Security Council unanimously condemned sexual exploitation in peacekeeping missions and pushed for investigation and punishment of the perpetrators. The United Nations has responded the sexual allegations: for instance, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 147 peacekeepers have been investigated in the last 16 months, 5 UN civilian staff have been fired while 77 peacekeepers have been expelled from the mission.

FACT SHEET

Moreover, the UN recently released a report commissioned by Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Husseini, who is the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations. In addition to proposing several reforms such as mandatory training and compensation for victims of sexual abuse, the report also urges troop contributing countries to agree to hold their peacekeepers accountable because only the offender's home country has the right to prosecute its troops. Prince Zeid also proposes courts-martial for accused soldiers in countries where the alleged abuse occurred and to change national laws that prevent it. To read the full report, visit <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/59/710>

Increasing transparency

- Deputy Secretary General Louise Fréchette has noted that many internal changes have been implemented since 1996 – the time period under scrutiny in Volcker's report on the oil-for-food program. For instance, the UN website now posts all purchasing requirements and awards, including details and the progress of all transactions.

Ensuring Ethical Conduct

- The Secretary General has also introduced a tough new whistle-blower policy that will enable staff to come forward with concerns without fearing retribution. The policy will be reviewed by staff before it is formally implemented.
- The Office of Human Resources and Management is testing a new training module on integrity and ethics. This will be in the form of a CD-ROM and will be mandatory for all Secretariat staff to complete. The Office of Human Resources Management is also reviewing ways of disseminating the UN's detailed Code of Conduct in a more accessible form.

Resources

On March 21, 2005, Secretary General Kofi Annan released a report entitled "In larger freedom," in which he proposes groundbreaking recommendations as part of a comprehensive strategy to reform the United Nations. The report sets the starting point for the UN summit in New York in September. The summit is an historic opportunity for President Bush to engage the international community in a new dialogue about what security means in the 21st century, how to deal with global issues such as poverty and disease and how the UN can play an effective role in an era of global interdependence. Read "In larger freedom" in full at <http://www.un.org/largerfreedom/contents.htm>

To learn more about the reforms mentioned in this paper, please visit http://www.un.org/reform/reform_update.html

For more on UN Reform visit http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/intl_instit/UN_ref/UN_ref_home.html

What We Do

Citizens for Global Solutions envisions a future in which nations work together to abolish war, protect our rights and freedoms, and solve the problems facing humanity that no nation can solve alone. This vision requires effective democratic global institutions that will apply the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities. We work to build political will for our vision in the United States by educating Americans about our global interdependence, communicating global concerns to public officials, and developing proposals to create, reform, and strengthen international institutions such as the United Nations.