

## 4.13

### Nepal

#### UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)

• Authorization and Start Date	23 January 2007 (UNSC Res. 1740)
• SRSB	Ian Martin (United Kingdom)
• Budget	\$62.1 million (1 January 2008–31 December 2009)
• Strength as of 31 October 2008	Military Observers: 67 International Civilian Staff: 106 Local Civilian Staff: 158 UN Volunteers: 33

*For detailed mission information see p. 323*

During 2008, Nepal elected a Constituent Assembly, declared the country a federal democratic republic, and formed a coalition government—remarkable achievements for a country that saw the end of hostilities just two years earlier. For the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), these developments had a transformative effect. While the mission had been due to complete its mandated tasks in July 2008, Nepal requested that UNMIN stay on until early 2009 in a diminished capacity. However, by late 2008, with the transition from the temporary arrangements for monitoring the arms and armies still outstanding—in particular some 19,000 Maoist combatants still in cantonments—it seemed likely that UNMIN would be again be extended in early 2009.

UNMIN was established in early 2007 to assist in the implementation of specific elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended the decade-long conflict between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) and the Nepali state in 2006. Conceived as

a special political mission of limited duration, UNMIN was mandated to monitor the parties' management of arms and armed personnel, provide technical support for the election of a Constituent Assembly, and assist in monitoring nonmilitary aspects of cease-fire arrangements.

Initially slated for June 2007, elections for Nepal's Constituent Assembly were postponed twice, but eventually took place on 10 April 2008. Throughout 2007 and the early months of 2008, UNMIN's electoral assistance office provided support to Nepal's electoral commission, establishing a presence at the commission's Kathmandu headquarters as well as at its regional resource centers. In May 2008, once the elections were complete, UNMIN's electoral staff were withdrawn from the districts and regions, and its electoral assistance office was closed.

To the surprise of many observers, the Maoists emerged as the strongest party in the Constituent Assembly, with 240 out of 601 seats. After a protracted period of political wrangling, Ram Baran Yadav of the Nepal Congress Party was installed as the country's first president in July, and Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the Maoist leader more commonly known as Prachanda, became prime minister in August. The new government identified three priorities: completing the peace process, ensuring the drafting of the constitution, and achieving rapid economic progress.

UNMIN continued to monitor the management of military equipment and personnel throughout the year, but with a reduction of arms monitors from 155 to 85 (out of an authorized strength of 90). As part of its downsizing plan, the arms-monitoring office reorganized its deployment to maintain continuity of

operations despite its decreased personnel strength. It also continued to chair the Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee, a mechanism within which senior members of the Nepal and Maoist armies convene to address violations of the agreement and resolve disputes. Notably effective since its initiation, by September 2008 the committee had held eighty-five meetings.

Uncertainty regarding UNMIN's departure stemmed from delays in the "integration and

rehabilitation" of the Maoist army combatants, which was supposed to have been completed within six months of the formation of the new government. By late 2008, however, it seemed evident that this goal would not be met and that there would thus be a need for UNMIN's continued presence. A request for UNMIN to extend its presence in Nepal was submitted to the UN in mid-December.

#### 4.13.1 India and Pakistan

##### UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

• Authorization Date	21 April 1948 (UNSC Res. 47)
• Start Date	1 January 1949
• Chief Military Officer	Major-General Kim Moon Hwa (Republic of Korea)
• Budget	\$8.1 million (1 January 2008–31 December 2008)
• Strength as of 31 October 2008	Military Observers: 44 International Civilian Staff: 23 Local Civilian Staff: 46

*For detailed mission information see p. 348*

Political upheaval in Pakistan in late 2007 led to the postponement of the scheduled talks. However, the two sides agreed to resume meeting in May 2008. Increased Islamic rebel violence and violent anti-India demonstrations were the cause of much concern throughout the year, leading India's foreign minister to declare in July that the peace talks were under duress. The surge in violence led to a dramatic violation of the cease-fire—the first in five years—that saw the two armies engage in a fierce gun battle. Each side blamed the other for the provocation, and in August, India accused Pakistan of complicity in the bombing of its embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. Recriminations between the two countries were followed by violent demonstrations in the contested area, with India deploying fighter jets in response to what it saw as increased Pakistani support for Islamic militants.

India-Pakistan tensions peaked in late November and early December following the terrorist attacks on Mumbai, which were attributed to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant group based in the Pakistani-controlled region of Kashmir. At the end of the year, India had taken a more confrontational stance toward the Pakistani government, raising questions as to the prospects of resolving the decades-old conflict over Kashmir.

In 2008, the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) monitored an increasingly tense situation along the contested Jammu-Kashmir border. During September, on the margins of the meetings of the UN General Assembly, the parties agreed to a new round of peace talks before the end of the year; and in October, cross-border trade resumed, breaking a sixty-year hiatus. But, despite these promising developments, the terrorist attacks in India's financial capital, Mumbai, in November served to undermine India-Pakistan relations.

UNMOGIP observes the cease-fire established by the Karachi Agreement of 27 July 1949, despite India's official position that UNMOGIP has had no operational role to play since the signing of the 1972 Simla Agreement, which established the line of control separating the two armies.

The mission continues to monitor the 1972 line of control, which has been only slightly revised since the 1949 Karachi Agreement. Following tensions in 2003 that raised the prospect of nuclear confrontation, political relations took a positive turn in January 2004, when an agreement was reached to commence a bilateral "composite dialogue" on an agreed range of issues, including those related to Jammu-Kashmir. Numerous confidence-building measures were initiated, and a minisummit was held in April 2005 to discuss the fate of Jammu-Kashmir. At talks in December 2006, Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf put forward a four-point plan involving demilitarization by both sides of the line of control, self-government, and joint control over the disputed areas in Kashmir. India responded cautiously to the terms of the plan, with talks continuing through 2007.