Since 1949 the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), the second-oldest UN peacekeeping mission, has monitored the cease-fire line separating the Pakistani- and Indian-controlled areas of Jammu-Kashmir, a disputed territory over which three armed conflicts have been waged since 1947. UNMOGIP monitors the line of control and is mandated to engage in patrols, inspections, and investigations of alleged violations of the cease-fire. The mission may also perform other field tasks in the area when permitted by both countries. In June 2012, Major-General Young-Bum Choi of South Korea was appointed the new head of UNMOGIP.

The current line of control was established in 1972. Since then India has maintained that UNMOGIP has no operational role to play in Jammu-Kashmir. For this reason it restricts the activities of UN observers on the Indian side of the line of control and limits its support for UNMOGIP, though it has allowed the mission to operate out of its summer office in Indian-controlled Srinagar. Pakistan believes that the mandate still applies and has continued to file complaints with UNMOGIP regarding perceived violations of the line of control.

Tensions in Jammu-Kashmir rose again in 2012, after a lull throughout most of 2011. In June 2012 a mysterious fire at a Sufi mosque set off confrontations between Indian police and protesters. In July a Kashmiri was killed by Indian armed forces in a disputed incident, leading to a strike, multiple protests, and arrests of separatist leaders. In August protesters set fire to an Indian police vehicle and assaulted three officers. UNMOGIP headquarters has continued to be a symbol for protesters seeking UN intervention in the dispute. In August a sit-in took place outside the mission’s office.

Despite such incidents, India-Pakistan relations have improved over the past two years. Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari met Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in April 2012, the first such trip in seven years.

The stalemate over Jammu-Kashmir, however, will likely persist. The death in April of 138 Pakistani soldiers in an avalanche on the region’s disputed Siachen glacier reinforced the continued risks in this deadlocked territorial dispute in which thousands from both sides have perished. It appears that UNMOGIP will continue to play a limited observational role as it waits for elusive diplomatic progress to be made.

The persistent armed conflict continues to impact the ability of the UN to operate across the country. Security concerns make widespread travel, especially in rural areas, a prohibitive risk. Overall, recorded security incidents against UN staff have decreased compared to 2011. This is due to a combination of factors including stronger efforts of Afghan and international forces against insurgents and their resources. The future viability of this downward trend is thus in question given the continued drawdown of international security forces.

**Economic Transition**

The potential economic consequences of the transition process have started to come into sharper relief in recent months. Decreases in international assistance will have meaningful impacts on Afghanistan’s gross domestic product (GDP). A World Bank report estimates that, under a favorable scenario, the projected decrease in GDP growth could create a 25 percent financing gap by fiscal year 2021–2022.7

Amid this difficult economic outlook, international donors convened in Tokyo on 8 July 2012 to pledge funds to support Afghanistan