

Box 1.1 The 2005 World Summit and Peace Operations

The 2005 World Summit adopted (and in some cases adapted) a number of recommendations made by the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change and by the Secretary-General himself in his report *In Larger Freedom*, which was designed to build on previous reforms of peacekeeping. Among the main conclusions of the summit were:

- Recognition of the “vital role” played by peacekeeping in helping parties to end conflict.
- The need to mount operations with adequate capacity to counter hostilities and fulfill effectively their mandates.
- Endorsement of the creation of an initial standing policy capacity to provide coherent, effective, and responsive startup

capability for the policing component of UN peacekeeping missions.

- Support for the European Union and other regional entities' efforts to develop capacities for rapid deployment and standby arrangements.
- Support for the development and implementation of a ten-year plan for capacity building with the African Union.
- A call on regional organizations with capacity for the prevention of armed conflict or peacekeeping to consider placing these capacities in the framework of the UN Standby Arrangements System.
- A reaffirmation of the commitment to the protection of children in situations of armed conflict.

The summit did not adopt in whole the High-level Panel's recommendation

that the UN establish a strategic reserve for peacekeeping—an idea designed to address the recurrent problem of the need to bolster the defensive and offensive capacity of peacekeeping forces in the face of hostility. The design of a strategic reserve is similar to that of “over-the-horizon” reserve forces commonly used in national deployments. However, the summit did urge further development of “enhanced rapidly deployable capacities to reinforce peacekeeping operations in times of crisis.”

The summit also adopted a carefully but strongly worded “responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.”