democratic institutions, consolidate national reconciliation processes, and mobilize international support and financial resources for development efforts.

Following a steep deterioration of security in 2002, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community deployed the Force Multinationale de la Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale (FOMUC), a regional peacekeeping force of 380 troops from Chad, Gabon, and the Congo with a mandate to support stability and the reconstruction of the Central African Armed Forces. FOMUC has had neither the mandate nor the capacity to bring stability to the CAR.1

BONUCA continues to operate in the CAR today, and has expanded its activities to support the government’s efforts to reform the security sector, reinforce the rule of law, disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate ex-combatants. A particular focus during 2008 was an effort to promote an all-inclusive political dialogue involving opposition leaders as well as representatives of the country’s several rebel groups. Meanwhile, in June 2008, the CAR became the fourth country to be placed on the agenda of the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

In a December 2006 report, then-Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed the deployment of a peacekeeping operation to monitor movements in the border areas, while working to improve security through the facilitation of political dialogue and the protection of civilians under imminent threat. While this proposal was

An unusual controversy, with implications for peacekeeping and humanitarian activities in Chad, began in late 2007 and carried over well into 2008. In November 2007, a group of French citizens calling themselves “Zoe’s Ark” attempted to remove 103 children and infants from Chadian territory near the border with Darfur, claiming that the children were Darfuri refugees.

The group was arrested as they attempted to load the kidnapped children onto a plane, all of whom were later established to be the children of Chadian citizens and not from Darfur at all. The popular backlash against the group, and indeed against all international actors inside Chad, was immediate and violent. Humanitarian staff and UN personnel from Western countries were attacked, further disrupting the already difficult delivery of humanitarian programs. The legacy of this event has been a heightened mistrust of international—and specifically humanitarian—actors and the introduction of new bureaucratic regulations designed to monitor the movement of humanitarian staff and the operation of aid programs.