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Anja Papenfuss

**Editorial:** Setting National Interests Aside (p. 1)

Martin Pabst (pp. 99–106)

**The United Nations and the Sudan (I).**

The North-South Peace Process at a Crossroads

For decades, Sudan suffered from civil wars in its southern provinces. In January 2005, the government and the Sudan's People's Liberation Movement/Army signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). It confirmed a permanent ceasefire, created an inclusive interim government for six years and granted southern Sudan autonomy for this period, followed by a referendum on independence. The UN Security Council mandated the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) to support the agreement's implementation and protect civilians and humanitarian workers. In 2008, the peace process stands at a crossroads. A new civil war has broken out in Darfur, where pacification seems more distant than ever, and mounting tensions and armed confrontations in Abyei and other controversial regions further threaten the future of the CPA. UNMIS must commit itself to support the peace process in southern Sudan, while simultaneously looking for sustainable, nation-wide solutions.

Andreas Zumach (p. 107)

**Comment: A UN Mission for Iraq**

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs' latest report on the situation in Iraq ignores many substantial obstacles to creating peace and stability in the country and sugar-coats the potentials of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The Security Council has also shied away from addressing the central question, namely the complete withdrawal of the Anglo-American troops. After that, only the United Nations, with a peacekeeping mission of at least 40,000 troops from countries that were not involved in the war, could create sustainable peace in Iraq.

Silke Weinlich (pp. 108–116)

**Two Years Peacebuilding Commission.**

Small Steps Toward Success

The article takes stock of the Peacebuilding Commission two years after it started its work. As expected, the record is mixed. The Commission got off to a slow start; in its first year which was mostly dedicated to procedural issues, the Commission risked losing sight of its crucial task of making a difference on the ground. Once it achieved more clarity with regard to its working procedures and mandate, its engagement with the countries on the agenda became more productive. It developed integrated peacebuilding strategies for Sierra Leone and Burundi and has begun to apply some of the lessons already learned to its involvement with Guinea-Bissau. Despite many obstacles, the Commission has started to make some

modest, positive impact on the ground. Its unprecedented effort to bring all relevant peacebuilding actors to one table is promising but has not yet yielded any visible coordination breakthroughs. In sum, the Peacebuilding Commission has not exploited its full potential so far.

**“We Have to Renovate Our Minds, Too”** (pp. 117–120)

Interview with Srgjan Kerim, President of the 62nd General Assembly of the United Nations

The President of the 62nd General Assembly thinks that not only the UN institutions need a ‘reset’ but also the minds of the people. In this sense, Kerim speaks about enhanced working methods in the Assembly, new topics on the agenda, the role of the President, mandate review and reform of the Security Council.

Daniel Thym (pp. 121–126)

**The European Union in the United Nations.**

The Treaty of Lisbon Promotes Coherence and Visibility

Improving its visibility on the international stage was one of the central objectives of Europe’s constitutional debate. Much will be achieved by the Treaty of Lisbon, which establishes a new unity of external representation. In its bilateral relations with third countries, the EU will speak with one voice. In the United Nations, however, the Member States will retain their prerogatives. The future EU delegation within the new ‘European External Action Service’ maintains the Commission’s observer status in the UN system. Instead the Member States will express European foreign policy primarily through coordinating their positions in Brussels and New York. The Treaty of Lisbon reinforces the underlying patterns of cooperation, which in recent years had already achieved a substantial alignment of national policies. It remains to be seen whether the High Representative will in practice speak on behalf of the EU Member States in the Security Council (as the Treaty of Lisbon suggests). For practical purposes, the everyday cooperation of the EU and the UN as partners in crisis management, development assistance, human rights promotion and environmental protection substantiates their joint commitment to multilateralism.

## **FROM THE UNITED NATIONS**

### **REPORTS**

#### **»Social Affairs and Human Rights**

Valentin Aichele (pp. 127)

**International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup>  
Session 2007**

**General Comment on the right to social security — Statement on national  
resource limitations**

Stefanie Lux (pp. 128)

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** | 37<sup>th</sup> to 39<sup>th</sup>  
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**25th anniversary: major contribution for the promotion of women's rights — two  
Decisions on domestic violence in Austria**

## »Administrative and Budgetary Affairs

Thomas Thomma (pp. 130)

**General Assembly** | 62<sup>nd</sup> Session 2007/2008 | Budget

**4.2 billion US-Dollar regular budget 2008–2009 approved — 6.7 billion US-Dollar  
for peacekeeping operations**

**Who is Who** (pp. 133)

New senior positions in the UN system: Alberdi, Bárcena Ibarra, Barkat, Chambers, Heinz, Heraeus, Jenca, Kane, Lemke, Manuel, Pansieri, Pollard, Verbeke, Wieczorek-Zeul, Zerihoun

**Book Reviews** (pp. 135)

HEIKO NITZSCHKE

Simon Chesterman (Ed.): *Secretary or General? The UN Secretary-General in World Politics*

Thant Myint-U / Amy Scott: *The UN Secretariat. A Brief History (1945–2006)*

Kent J. Kille (Ed.): *The UN Secretary-General and Moral Authority. Ethics and Religion in International Leadership*

GÜNTHER UNSER

Chadwick F. Alger: *The United Nations System: A Reference Handbook*

Courtney B. Smith: *Politics and Process at the United Nations: The Global Dance*

**United Nations Documents** (pp. 139)

(General Assembly Resolution on death penalty; UN Security Council Resolutions and Presidential Statements, February to May 2008)

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