



Fact Sheet 1

Update February 2008

# UNMIN



## Supporting Nepal's Peace Process



### What is UNMIN ?

UNMIN is a special political mission established by the United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1740, to support the peace process in Nepal: in particular, to assist in the conduct of the Constituent Assembly election in a free and fair atmosphere.

UNMIN was established in response to requests by the Seven-Party Alliance Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), in their letters to the Secretary-General of 9 August 2006, in which they asked the UN to assist in creating a free and fair atmosphere for the election of the Constituent Assembly and the entire peace process. The parties went on to sign the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 21 November 2006, and UNMIN officially began its work on 23 January 2007.

Before UNMIN was established, from August 2006, the United Nations assisted the parties to the peace process through the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. For a number of years the Secretary-General of the United Nations had been closely engaged, through the UN's Department of Political Affairs, in efforts to encourage a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Nepal.

Mr Ian Martin is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal, and is the head of UNMIN.

### Where does UNMIN have offices and teams in Nepal ?

UNMIN's headquarters is in Kathmandu, at the Birendra International Convention Centre. UNMIN also has regional headquarters in each of the five regional development capitals:

Eastern	Biratnagar
Central	Kathmandu
Western	Pokhara
Mid-Western	Nepalgunj
Far-Western	Dhangadhi

## What is

### UNMIN doing in Nepal ?

To achieve its objective, and based on the requests of the parties to the CPA, UNMIN's mandate includes the following tasks:

- monitor the management of arms and armed personnel of the Nepal Army and the Maoist army
- assist the parties through a Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee in implementing the agreement on monitoring of the management of arms and armed personnel of both the Nepal Army and the Maoist army
- provide technical assistance to the Election Commission in the planning, preparation and conduct of the election of a Constituent Assembly in a free and fair atmosphere
- assist in the monitoring of ceasefire arrangements

In addition, an independent team of election monitors appointed by the Secretary-General and reporting to him reviews all technical aspects of the electoral process and the conduct of the election.

## How does

### UNMIN relate to other UN agencies ?



Most UN agencies present in Nepal have been established for a long time, in order to support and implement a wide range of development programmes and assist in response to emerging humanitarian needs. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established in May 2005, with the aim of protecting human rights in the context of the armed conflict and threats to democratic rights. The parties to the CPA expressly requested OHCHR to take responsibility for monitoring the human rights situation during the peace process, and UNMIN works closely with OHCHR in this regard.

The SRSG is the overall coordinator of the UN system's support to the peace process. UNMIN works with the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to ensure that all UN agencies coordinate their efforts and maximize the UN support to Nepal's peace process.

## What is

### UNMIN's role in the regions and districts?



**Arms monitors** maintain a 24-hour presence at each of the seven main cantonment sites of the Maoist army, in Ilam, Sindhuli, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Rolpa, Surkhet and Kailali, and at the Nepal Army's barracks in Chhauni. They monitor the weapons stored at these sites in accordance with the Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies. Arms monitors conduct regular visits to the 21 satellite cantonment sites of the Maoist army and to Nepal Army barracks. In addition, ten Joint Monitoring Teams, each comprising one UN arms monitor, one member of the Nepal Army and one member of the Maoist army, conduct regular liaison, monitoring and investigation work in the districts.

**Mine action experts** advise the Maoist army on the safe storage and destruction of improvised explosive devices, and provide advice and training to the Nepal Army in the clearance of anti-personnel minefields to International Mine Action Standards.

**Electoral advisers** support the Election Commission at the regional and district level. Prior to the Constituent Assembly election small teams in all the districts will assist in the final preparations and conduct of the election. Police advisory teams will provide the Nepal Police with advice on the planning and execution of election security.

**Civil affairs officers** monitor and report on the reestablishment of local governance and public security. They also encourage local dialogue to promote peace building at the district level.

## How long

### will UNMIN stay in Nepal ?

The Security Council established UNMIN with a 12-month mandate. Upon the request of the Government of Nepal, in January 2008 the Security Council extended the mandate of UNMIN for six months. The mandate expires in July 2008. The termination or extension of UNMIN will depend on a request of the Government of Nepal. Longer term UN assistance will continue to be delivered by UN agencies.