
Appendix 2

Special Committee on Peacekeeping (C34) annual reports: Excerpts on monitoring and surveillance technology

The United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping is composed of 124 member states that are past or current contributors to peacekeeping operations. The Committee is mandated to conduct a “comprehensive review of all issues relating to peacekeeping”. After each annual “substantive” session, it presents a consensus report to the UN General Assembly. The following are passages from those annual reports that deal with peacekeeping technology (especially monitoring and surveillance technology). **Bold font** and underlining have been added to certain keywords for ease of scanning.

1989 (UN Doc. A/44/301)

“With regard to the use of **high technology** in peacekeeping operations, it was indicated that, in view of its complexity, the issue needed to be **further explored**.”

Annex: Working Paper No. 2, “Proposals on Peacekeeping” (submitted by delegations). B.2. High technology:

“19. A study should be undertaken on possible uses of high technology, such as surveillance satellites, automatic sensors, radar and night-vision-equipment.”

1990 (UN Doc. A/45/330)

“19. On the possible application of **high technology** to peace-keeping operations, the issues of **economic feasibility** as well as political advisability of using such technology in this field were raised. It was felt, therefore, that **further**

discussion on the subject would be needed. In the course of the discussion, the Canadian delegation presented a study on ‘**overhead** remote sensing for United Nations peace-keeping,’ which was highly appreciated by the working group.”

1991 (UN Doc. A/46/254)

“14. Most delegations welcomed the progress made so far on the question of resources for United Nations peace-keeping operations. They felt that **further consideration** should be given to improvements in such matters as the use of civilians, training of peace-keepers, supply and stockpiling, and the **applications of high technology**.”

1992 (UN Doc. A/47/253)

“96. However, while supporting reforms to enable the United Nations to assess quickly and accurately information on potential threats to international peace and security, some delegations were of the view that the United Nations **did not need** independent **high-tech means** for intelligence gathering. What was needed were better ties with national services that could provide detailed up-to-date information which would facilitate the United Nations analysis of options. In this respect, it was suggested that Member States should undertake to supply, at the request of the Secretary-General, the information which would permit an evaluation of the situation concerning international peace and security. If a Member State so requested, such information should be regarded as confidential.”

2001 (UN Doc. A/55/1024)

“13. Many delegations endorsed the need expressed in the report of the Secretary-General for **additional resources**, as well as the better use of existing ones, in order to improve the functioning of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The same delegations underlined the **need** for an enhanced use of **information technology**.”

2005 (UN Doc. A/59/19/Rev.1)

“67. The Special Committee agrees that as the United Nations enhances its capacity to gather field information and assess risks, all forms of **technical monitoring and surveillance** means, in particular **aerial** monitoring capabilities as part of United Nations missions, should be **explored** as a means to ensure the safety of peacekeepers, particularly in volatile and dangerous conditions and in situations too dangerous for visual monitoring from the ground. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide in his next report to the Committee a **comprehensive assessment** in that regard and on the basis of lessons learned.”

2006 (UN Doc. A/60/19)

“56. The Special Committee stresses the **need for priority action** by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to examine how all forms of technical monitoring and surveillance means, in particular aerial monitoring capabilities, can

be used by the United Nations to ensure the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, particularly those peacekeepers who are deployed in volatile and dangerous conditions, and in situations too dangerous for monitoring from the ground. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations engage troop-contributing countries in a **dialogue** on this issue. The Special Committee reiterates yet again its request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee in his next report with a comprehensive assessment in this regard.”

2007 (UN Doc. A/61/19)

“45. The Special Committee **welcomes the study** launched by the Secretariat on the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies to tangibly improve operational capabilities, achieve results in the field and promote the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. Recognizing the urgent need for Peacekeeping Operations to **standardize** the use of advanced technology, particularly in missions operating in dangerous environments or mandated with challenging tasks, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to **develop appropriate modalities** for the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies with due attention to legal, operational, technical and financial considerations as well as the consent of the countries concerned with regards to their application in the field.

46. The Special Committee calls on the Secretariat to *engage* in the utilization of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies where appropriate, particularly in more dangerous missions, and **present a report** to the C-34 in its next session on the steps taken by the Secretariat towards achieving these ends and any further suggestions for consideration by the Special Committee. The Special Committee *encourages dialogue* among member states and between member states and the Secretariat to meet the objectives stated above.”

2008 (UN Doc. A/62/19)

“50. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to present a **progress report** to it before its 2009 substantive session on the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee continues to request the Secretariat to **develop appropriate modalities** for the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies with due attention to legal, operational, technical and financial considerations as well as the consent of the countries concerned with regard to their application in the field.”

2009 (UN Doc. A/63/19)

“42. The Special Committee notes the **progress** made towards a wider and systemic use of technology in peacekeeping operations. However, the Special Committee believes **further progress** is required. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the development of a United Nations **policy** on monitoring and surveillance technology, and looks forward to a **report** on this subject

within six months of the issuance of this Committee's findings. The Special Committee believes that due attention should be given to legal, operational, technical and financial considerations and especially the consent of the countries concerned with regard to their application in the field."

2010 (UN Doc. A/64/19)

"43. The Special Committee notes the **progress** made towards a **wider and systemic use of technology** in peacekeeping operations. However, the Special Committee believes **further effort** in this direction is required. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue its work towards the finalization of the **draft policy** for the use of monitoring and surveillance technology in the field missions, and looks forward to a **report** on this subject within six months of the issuance of this Committee's 2010 report. The Special Committee looks forward to considering the legal, operational, technical and financial considerations contained in the report and especially the element of the consent of the countries concerned with regard to the application of such means in the field."