

THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS:
**HELPING PREVENT
CONFLICT AND
SUSTAIN PEACE**

Prevention of conflict is among the United Nations Secretary-General's highest priorities, an integral part of broader efforts to foster economic and social development and promote and protect human rights. The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is central to the UN's efforts to prevent conflict and build sustainable peace. DPA monitors and assesses political developments all over the globe in order to detect potential crises before they erupt and devise effective responses. It provides support to the Secretary-General and his envoys, and oversees political missions deployed around the world and working to end or forestall conflict.

DPA cooperates closely with regional and other organizations on the frontlines of conflicts. At UN Headquarters, DPA also helps the Security Council and UN bodies working on decolonization and Palestinian rights carry out their work.



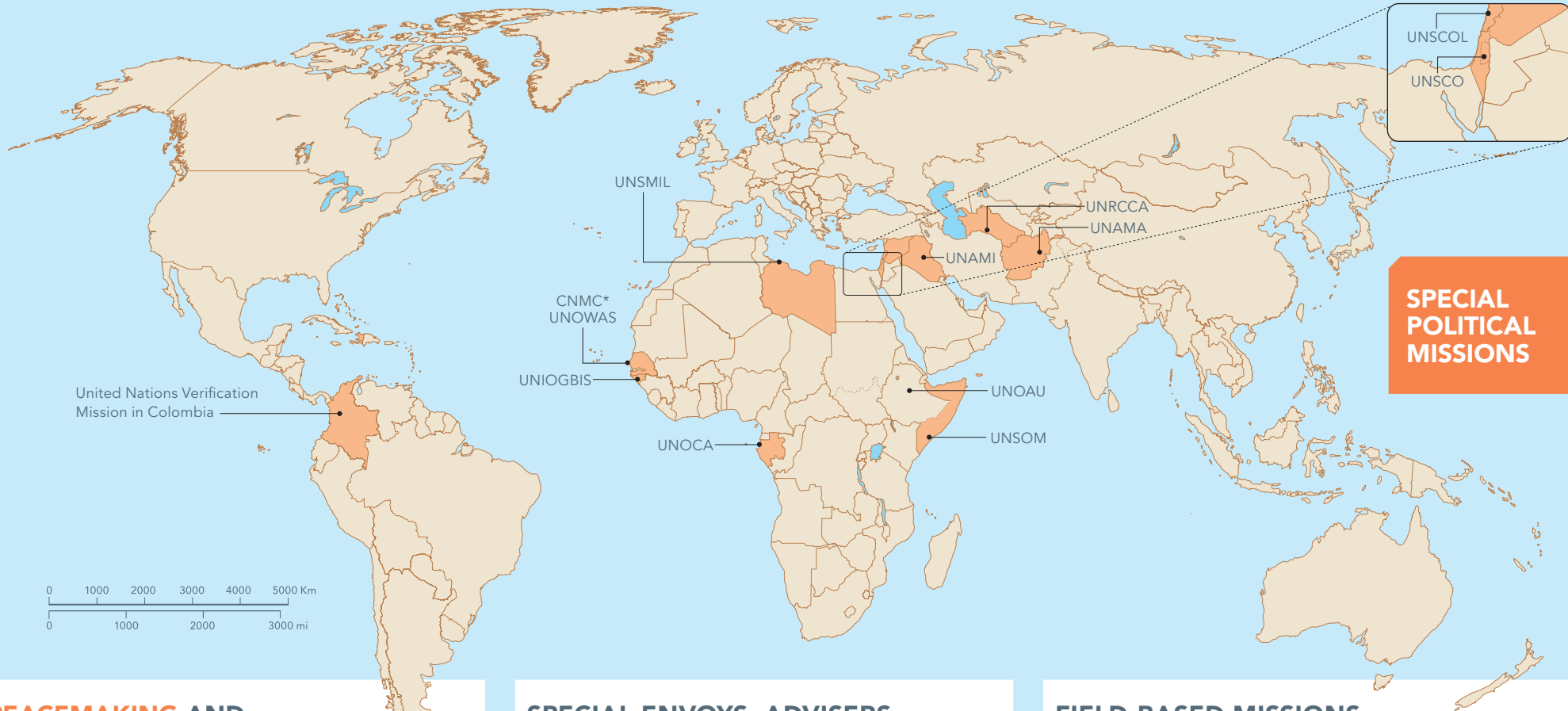
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Effective policy responses begin with sound and timely information and analysis, taking the pulse on events as they develop. DPA's regional divisions monitor developments around the globe and provide the Secretary-General with the analysis that informs his decisions and shapes his continuous diplomacy with UN Member States, regional organizations, civil society and other actors. The DPA leadership frequently briefs the UN Security Council on global political developments, the status of UN peacemaking efforts and the activities of UN political missions in the field.

TANGIBLE SUPPORT

DPA is the focal point for UN electoral assistance to countries around the world. Elections play an important part in peace processes and political transitions aimed at ending bloodshed, or establishing or restoring democratic governance. In any given year, DPA carries out electoral visits to around 60 countries. DPA also has a Standby Team of high-level mediators and manages a roster of mediation experts who can be deployed to provide advice and guidance to peace processes globally.





**SPECIAL
POLITICAL
MISSIONS**

PEACEMAKING AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

The Secretary-General employs diplomatic “good offices” to help bring warring parties toward peace or to prevent political and armed conflicts from escalating. DPA buttresses these efforts, working with peace envoys and peace operations – known as “special political missions” – established in conflict areas around the world. The United Nations is one of many actors in a diverse field of international conflict mediation. DPA acts as a center of expertise on preventive diplomacy, mediation and peacemaking, making its services available to UN and non-UN envoys alike.

SPECIAL ENVOYS, ADVISERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, currently focusing on Burundi dialogue
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Implementation of Resolution 1559
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region
United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions (UNRGID)

FIELD-BASED MISSIONS

CNMC	United Nations Support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, Dakar
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Kabul
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Baghdad
UNIOGBIS	United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Guinea-Bissau, Bissau
UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union, Addis Ababa
UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Libreville
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Dakar
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Ashgabat
UNSCO	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Jerusalem
UNSCOL	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Beirut
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Mogadishu
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Tripoli
	United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Bogotá

*Missions whose headquarters are outside area of operation.