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.

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.
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.