

# Annex B. Chronology 2006

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For the convenience of the reader, keywords are indicated in the right-hand column, opposite each entry. Definitions of the abbreviations can be found on pages xviii–xx. The dates are according to local time.

- 1 Jan.* The EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL– EU; COPPS) is launched in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to support the Palestinian Authority in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements. It is a civilian mission within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Palestinians
- 10 Jan.* Following the 3 Jan. announcement of its intentions, Iran starts to remove the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) seals from its uranium enrichment facility at Natanz and resumes its nuclear research and development programme, and ends a two-year voluntary suspension. The IAEA confirms the removal of the seals. Iran; Nuclear programme; IAEA
- 10 Jan.– 6 Feb.* Cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, first published in a Danish newspaper on 30 Sep. 2005, are reprinted in a Norwegian newspaper. The action sparks serious and sometimes violent protests around the Muslim world. Islam
- 14 Jan.* Missiles fired from a US military aircraft on the village of Damadola, Pakistan, kill at least 18 people. US media claim that the attack was carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency, targeting the deputy leader of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri. The US military states that it is not aware of any US operations in the area. The attack sparks demonstrations against the USA in Karachi, Pakistan. Pakistan; USA
- 14 Jan.* The Norwegian-led Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), set up by the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group under the 2002 ceasefire agreement, is attacked in a grenade blast at its headquarters in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. The LTTE denies any involvement. Sri Lanka
- 18 Jan.* During protests against a UN proposal to dissolve the Ivorian Parliament the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) forces in Guiglo, are besieged and attacked by the Young Patriots group, supporting President Laurent Gbagbo. The UN forces respond with force, killing four people, and decide to leave Guiglo and withdraw to the demilitarized zone. President Gbagbo's ruling party, the Front populaire ivoirien (Ivorian Popular Front), leaves the UN-led peace talks and calls on the peacekeeping forces to leave the country. UN; Côte d'Ivoire

- 25 Jan. In the first Palestinian parliamentary elections since 1996, the Islamic militant group Hamas wins a majority of the seats in the 132-member Palestinian Legislative Council. Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei announces his resignation on 26 Jan., following the Fatah party's defeat. Palestinians
- 27 Jan. Following the killing of eight peacekeepers of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) on 23 Jan., the UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1653, condemning the militias and other armed groups that are destabilizing the Great Lakes region by attacks on civilians and UN personnel, and stressing the need for disarmament and demobilization of these groups. UN; DRC; Great Lakes region
- 31 Jan. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1654, requesting the re-establishment of the expert group to monitor the arms embargo on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that was imposed by Resolutions 1493 (2003) and 1596 (2005). UN; DRC; Arms embargoes
- 3 Feb. The third round of Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP) is held in Tokyo, Japan. Building on the 2003 and 2005 ASTOP meetings, the aims of the meeting are to discuss North Korea's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and Iran's nuclear programme; to follow up the measures taken to strengthen the existing non-proliferation regimes, export controls and the Proliferation Security Initiative; and to discuss cooperation to overcome problems in the implementation of treaties and norms relating to disarmament and non-proliferation. Asia; Non-proliferation; North Korea; Iran
- 4 Feb. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors adopts, by a vote of 27–3 (Cuba, Syria and Venezuela voting against), with 5 abstentions (Algeria, Belarus, Indonesia, Libya and South Africa), Resolution GOV/2006/14, requesting the IAEA Director General to send to the UN Security Council all IAEA reports and resolutions relating to the implementation of safeguards in Iran; and urging Iran to 'extend full and prompt cooperation' to the IAEA. Iran; IAEA; UN; Safeguards
- 5 Feb. Following the resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 4 Feb. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad orders an end to Iran's voluntary cooperation with the IAEA and IAEA inspections of its nuclear sites, and the continuation of its full-scale uranium enrichment programme. On 6 Feb. Iran orders the IAEA to remove its surveillance cameras and seals from Iranian sites and nuclear equipment by 17 Feb. Iran; Nuclear programme; IAEA
- 14 Feb. Two protocols amended to the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention) are opened for signature. Under the protocols it will be illegal to use non-military ships to intentionally transport or launch attacks with weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and to use these types of weapons in attacks against or from a fixed platform at sea. WMD

- 22 Feb. Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, under the leadership of the Norwegian Special Peace Envoy, Erik Solheim, representatives of the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group open peace negotiations for the first time since 2003. Sri Lanka
- 22–24 Feb. A bomb attack badly damages the al-Askari shrine in Samarra, Iraq, one of the holiest sites of Shia Islam, sparking protests in many cities throughout Iraq. In the aftermath Shia Muslims attack several Sunni mosques. At least 130 people are killed or injured as the violence escalates. Iraq
- 28 Feb. Meeting in Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire, the five main leaders in the Ivorian conflict—Prime Minister Charles Konan Bany, President Laurent Gbagbo, the leader of the News Forces rebel group, Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, and the main opposition leaders, Henri Konan Bédié and Alasanne Outtara—agree to support the peace plan contained in UN Security Council Resolution 1633 (2005), to acknowledge the necessity to update the timetable for the peace process and to immediately resume the five-party dialogue. Côte d’Ivoire
- 2 Mar. Meeting in New Delhi, India, US President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh sign the Indian–US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative, announced in July 2005. Under the agreement India pledges to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and adhere to the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime, and will have access to US civil nuclear technology. The agreement will take effect after ratification by both India and the USA. The US Congress ratified it on 9 Dec. India; USA; Nuclear energy
- 8 Mar. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors decides to send the IAEA Director General’s report on Iran’s nuclear programme to the UN Security Council. Iran; IAEA; UN; Safeguards
- 11 Mar. Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic dies of a heart attack in his cell at the UN Detention Unit, Scheveningen, the Netherlands. The trial of Milosevic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague was to be completed later in 2006. Yugoslavia; ICTY
- 14 Mar. The Israeli Army raids the Palestinian prison in Jericho, the West Bank, demolishes the building and moves the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Ahmed Saadat, to an Israeli prison, claiming that he and other militants were about to be freed by the Palestinian authorities. Saadat is accused of killing the Israeli Tourism Minister in 2001. The raid sparks demonstrations and a general strike in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Israel/Palestinians
- 15 Mar. The UN General Assembly adopts, by a vote of 170–4 (Israel, the Marshall Islands, Palau and the USA voting against), with 3 abstentions (Belarus, Iran and Venezuela), Resolution 60/251, establishing a Human Rights Council. The council was first proposed at the UN World Summit in Sep. 2005 and replaces the UN Commission for Human Rights. UN; Human rights

- 15 Mar. The US Government announces that it will withdraw its fighter aircraft and helicopters from the military base at Keflavík, Iceland, by the end of Sep. Iceland, a member of NATO, has no armed forces of its own. USA; Iceland
- 16 Mar. The USA, supported by Iraqi forces, launches Operation Swarmer, the largest airborne operation in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003, targeting suspected insurgents near Samarra. USA/Iraq
- 22 Mar. The Basque separatist group Euzkadi ta Azkatasuna (ETA, Basque Land and Liberty) releases a statement declaring a permanent ceasefire effective as of 24 Mar. and the start of 'a new democratic process in the Basque country'. Spain
- 29 Mar. The UN Security Council unanimously approves Presidential Statement S/PRST/2006/15, calling on Iran to re-establish the full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, and requesting, within 30 days, a report from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iranian compliance with the steps required by the IAEA (see also 28 Apr.). Iran; IAEA; UN; Safeguards
- 29 Mar. Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is detained in Nigeria (after nearly three years in exile in Calabar, Nigeria) and transferred to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in Freetown, facing 17 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged role in Sierra Leone's civil war in 1991–2002. Sierra Leone; Liberia; Special Court for Sierra Leone
- 31 Mar. Georgia and Russia sign, in Sochi, Russia, two agreements: on the time limits for the closure of Russian military bases in Akhalkalaki and Batumi, Georgia, and on the passage of armaments across the territory of Georgia. The agreements are based on a joint statement that was issued in May 2005. Georgia; Russia; Military bases
- 4 Apr. The Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST), in Baghdad, announces that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and six other defendants will be charged with genocide for the 1986–89 Anfal Campaign, in which 180 000 civilians were killed and for the chemical gas attack on the Kurdish town of Halabja in 1988. Iraq; IST
- 11 Apr. The President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, officially announces that Iran has successfully produced enriched uranium to the level needed to make nuclear fuel (see 5 Feb.). Iran; Nuclear programme
- 17 Apr. In a suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv, Israel, 10 people are killed and around 50 are injured. The Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for the attack, but the Israeli Government holds the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority responsible. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemns the attack, while Hamas describes it as an act of self-defence. Israel/Palestinians
- 24 Apr. At least 23 people are killed and 62 are wounded in three explosions in the resort town of Dahab, Egypt. Egyptian authorities claim that a militant group that is active in the Sinai, inspired by al-Qaeda, is responsible for the attacks. Egypt

- 26 Apr. Following a suicide bomb attack on 25 Apr. on the Sri Lankan Army headquarters in Colombo, seriously wounding Army Chief Sarath Fonseka, the armed forces carry out air strikes on suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel bases. The air strikes are the first army action since the signing of the ceasefire agreement in 2002. Sri Lanka
- 27 Apr. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1673, extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of two years and deciding that the Committee shall intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all states of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). UN; WMD
- 28 Apr. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohamed ElBaradei releases his report on Iranian non-compliance with the demands to suspend its enrichment and reprocessing programme. Iran; IAEA; UN; Safeguards
- 3 May The EU freezes its talks on a Stability and Association Agreement with Serbia and Montenegro as the deadline for the arrest of former Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic, set for 30 Apr., was not met. Mladic is indicted for genocide in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. EU; Serbia and Montenegro
- 5 May Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, under the auspices of the African Union (AU), the Sudanese Government and the largest rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), sign the Darfur Peace Agreement. Under the agreement the pro-government Janjaweed militia is to be disbanded, the rebel fighters are to be integrated into the armed forces, and a regional government is to be created. Two rebel groups, a faction of the SLM and the Justice and Equality Movement, refuse to sign the agreement. Sudan; AU
- 11 May Following a suicide attack on a navy convoy near Jaffna, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) issues a statement calling on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to cease all activities at sea. The SLMM blames the LTTE for 'gross violations' of the 2002 ceasefire agreement. Sri Lanka
- 18 May Up to 100 people are killed in several clashes between Taliban fighters and forces from the US-led coalition and the Afghan Government in Helmand and Kandahar provinces. Afghan President Hamid Karzai blames the Pakistan Inter Services Intelligence for encouraging Taliban insurgents to mount suicide attacks. Afghanistan/ USA; Pakistan
- 1 June The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC), initiated in 2003 and chaired by Hans Blix, of Sweden, presents its report to the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. The WMDC makes 60 recommendations and calls on all states to work to achieve a ban on all WMD and to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force. WMD; Non-proliferation; CTBT
- 3 June Following a referendum on 21 May, Montenegro formally withdraws from its union with Serbia. In response to Montenegro's decision, Serbia formally declares its independence on 5 June. Montenegro; Serbia

- 14 June* The members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopt, in Abuja, Nigeria, the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms, Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, completing the transformation of the 1998 Moratorium on Light Weapons into a legally binding instrument. The convention will enter into force when 9 of the 15 ECOWAS members have ratified it. ECOWAS; SALW
- 26 June–7 July* The UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is held in New York. UN; SALW
- 27 June* The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts Resolution 1507, Alleged Secret Detentions and Unlawful Inter-state Transfers of Detainees Involving Council of Europe Member States, urging the USA to dismantle its system of secret detentions and unlawful interstate transfers and condemning the USA's systematic exclusion of all forms of judicial protection. Council of Europe; USA; Terrorism
- 28 June* The Israeli Army launches a major attack in the southern Gaza Strip, aimed at rescuing a captured Israeli soldier. The incursion comes less than a year after the Israeli pullout from Gaza. On 29 June, 64 ministers and other officials from the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority are detained by Israeli forces in the West Bank. Israel/Palestinians
- 5 July* North Korea test fires a series of ballistic missiles. On 15 July the UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1695, condemning the missile launches and demanding that North Korea suspend all its activities related to its ballistic missile programme and re-establish its pre-existing commitments to a moratorium on missile launches. North Korea; Missiles
- 10 July* Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev is killed in an explosion in the Russian Republic of Ingushetia. Basayev was responsible for the 2004 hostage taking in Beslan, Russia, and for the 2005 attack in Nalchik, Russia. Russia/Chechnya
- 11 July* Seven near-simultaneous bomb attacks on the train network in Mumbai, India, kill over 180 people and injure several hundred. India
- 12 July* Meeting in Paris, France, the foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA), together with Germany, decide to refer Iran back to the Security Council for possible sanctions for its non-compliance with the demands to suspend its enrichment and reprocessing activities. Iran; Nuclear programme; UN

- 12 July–14 Aug.* Following the capture of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah rebels in Lebanon, Israel launches attacks into southern Lebanon, including Beirut, using aircraft, tanks and gunboats. This is the first Israeli land incursion into Lebanon since its unilateral withdrawal in 2000. The violence escalates as Hezbollah fires rockets on Haifa and Israel extends its air strikes to the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. A large number of civilians are killed in the attacks. Israel/Lebanon
- 15–17 July* The leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized nations, meeting in St Petersburg, Russia, adopt a special statement on non-proliferation, reaffirming that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and international terrorism remain the pre-eminent threats to international peace and security. They also adopt a statement condemning the North Korean missile launches of 5 July. G8; Non-proliferation; WMD; North Korea
- 24 July* Meeting in Vienna, Austria, under the leadership of UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari, political leaders of Serbia and Kosovo begin the negotiations to determine the future status of Kosovo. (Lower-level talks took place in Feb. 2006 to determine issues such as the economy.) UN; Kosovo
- 25 July* Four observers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are killed in an Israeli air strike on an observation post in southern Lebanon. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan calls the attack an ‘apparently deliberate targeting’. Israel/Lebanon; UN
- 30 July–22 Aug.* The first democratic presidential elections since its independence, in 1960, are held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Following the announcement on 20 Aug. of the necessity of a run-off vote between President Joseph Kabila and Jean-Pierre Bemba, violent clashes between their supporters break out in Kinshasa. Forces from Operation EUFOR RD Congo support the patrolling of the streets by the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). An agreement to stop the fighting is reached on 22 Aug. under the auspices of the UN. On 29 Oct., in the second round of the elections, President Joseph Kabila is re-elected. DRC
- 31 July* The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 14–1 (Qatar voting against), Resolution 1696, demanding that Iran suspend all activities related to enrichment of uranium and reprocessing of plutonium, including research and development. The suspension is to be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by 31 Aug. and ‘appropriate measures’ will be taken if Iran does not comply with the resolution. Iran; Nuclear programme; UN; IAEA
- 10 Aug.* The British police reveal a suspected ‘terror plot’ to bring down about 12 aircraft scheduled to fly from the UK to the USA. The suspects in the plot are reportedly UK-born Muslims of Pakistani origin, and 24 people are arrested in Birmingham and London. It is believed that the plot involved liquid explosives which were to be detonated using electrical devices such as mobile phones. UK; Terrorism

- 11 Aug.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1701, calling for a full cessation of hostilities in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah; calling for the deployment of Lebanese forces together with UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon and a parallel withdrawal of Israeli forces; and deciding to drastically increase the force size to 15 000 soldiers and the scope of the mandate of UNIFIL. The UN ceasefire plan is approved by both Hezbollah and Israel. Israel/Lebanon; UN; Peacekeeping
- 14 Aug.* The ceasefire in Lebanon, drawn up by UN Security Council Resolution 1701, comes into force. On 16 Aug. the Lebanese Government approves a plan to deploy 15 000 Lebanese soldiers to the region of the Litani river, in southern Lebanon. France agrees to command the expanded UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Lebanon; UN; France
- 31 Aug.* The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 12–0, with 3 abstentions (China, Qatar and Russia), Resolution 1706, expanding the mandate of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to include its deployment to Darfur. The Security Council invites the consent of the Sudanese Government to the deployment, but President Omar al-Bashir strongly reiterates his opposition and states that ‘Sudan will not consent to any resolution that will violate its sovereignty’. UN; Sudan; Peacekeeping
- 7 Sep.* Israel lifts its sea and air blockade of Lebanon, allowing the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to replace Israel at ‘control positions’. Israel/Lebanon
- 7 Sep.* The Government of Burundi and the Forces nationales de libération (FNL, National Liberation Forces) rebel group sign, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, a ceasefire agreement, ending 13 years of civil war between ethnic Tutsi and the Hutu majority. The agreement comes into effect on 11 Sep. (The FNL had rejected the power-sharing agreement signed by the other rebel groups of Burundi in Nov. 2003.) Burundi
- 8 Sep.* The UN General Assembly unanimously adopts Resolution 60/288, UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and an annexed Plan of Action, enhancing national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. UN; Terrorism
- 8 Sep.* Meeting in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, leaders from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan sign the Treaty of Semipalatinsk, establishing a Central Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. Central Asia; NWFZ
- 5 Oct.* The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) expands its operations to include the east of Afghanistan. ISAF will now carry out its UN-mandated mission throughout the whole of Afghanistan, in order to extend the authority of the Afghan Government and to create the conditions for reconstruction and development. NATO; ISAF; UN; Afghanistan

- 9 Oct. North Korea carries out an underground nuclear weapon test in Gilju, Hamgyong province. An official statement is issued claiming that the test was successful and that there was no radioactive emission. North Korea; Nuclear tests
- 14 Oct. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1718, condemning the North Korean nuclear weapon test of 9 Oct.; demanding that North Korea not conduct further tests or launch ballistic missiles; imposing sanctions against the country and individuals supporting its military programme; and demanding that North Korea cease its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). UN; North Korea; Nuclear tests; WMD
- 16 Oct. A suicide bomb attack at a military bus convoy kills nearly 100 people and wounds more than 150, in the deadliest rebel attack in Sri Lanka since the 2002 ceasefire agreement. On 18 Oct. the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carries out a suicide attack on a naval base in the tourist city of Galle in the south of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka
- 17 Oct. US President George W. Bush signs the 2006 Military Commissions Act, setting standards for the interrogation and prosecution of foreign terror suspects held by the USA, setting out a system of special tribunals, forbidding the treatment of detainees that would constitute war crimes (torture, rape and biological experiments), but authorizing the president to decide which interrogation techniques to be used. USA; Terrorism
- 22 Oct. UN Secretary-General Special Representative for Sudan Jan Pronk is expelled from the country by the Sudanese Government after he claimed that the morale of the Sudanese Army was low and that it had recently lost two major battles to rebel groups. The UN protests to the Sudanese Government over the expulsion. UN; Sudan
- 24 Oct. In clashes in Kandahar, Afghanistan, between the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Taliban insurgents, 48 rebels and several civilians are killed. NATO; ISAF; Afghanistan
- 26 Oct. The UN First Committee votes, by a vote of 139–1 (the USA voting against), with 24 abstentions, in favour of beginning the work of drawing up an international arms trade treaty. The UN Secretary-General shall within a year produce a report on how to introduce common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms (see also 6 Dec.). UN; Arms trade
- 1 Nov. Israel launches a major military offensive into Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip, aiming at stopping Palestinian militants from firing rockets into Israel. By 7 Nov., when Israel withdraws its troops, more than 60 Palestinians are killed. On 8 Nov. the Israeli Army kills 18 civilians and wounds 40 people when it again fires rockets into the town. Israel/ Palestinians
- 5 Nov. The Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST), in Baghdad, finds former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein guilty of the charges of crimes against humanity and for ordering the killing of 148 Shia men in Dujail, Iraq, in 1982, and sentences him to death by hanging. Iraq; IST

- 8 Nov. Nepal's ruling Seven-Party Alliance, under Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, and Maoist rebel leader Prachanda sign, in Kathmandu, an agreement under which the rebels will join a transitional government after having put their weapons under UN supervision. Under the agreement a constituent assembly will be elected in 2007, replacing the parliament restored by King Gyanendra. A comprehensive peace agreement is signed on 21 Nov., ending a 10-year rebel insurgency. Nepal
- 9 Nov. The first hearing of the confirmation of war crime charges is opened at the International Criminal Court (ICC), The Hague, the Netherlands, against the alleged founder and leader of the Union des Patriotes Congolais (Union of Congolese Patriots), Thomas Lubanga Dyilo. Lubanga Dyilo was the first person to be arrested on an ICC warrant issued on 17 Mar., on charges of war crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since July 2002. ICC; DRC
- 12 Nov. The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), Protocol V to the 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW Convention), enters into force. CCW
- 16 Nov. Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Union (AU), the UN and the Sudanese Government agree to allow UN peacekeepers to enter into Darfur together with the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), already deployed there. AU; UN; Peacekeeping; Sudan
- 20 Nov.–8 Dec. The Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) is held in Geneva. The conference adopts measures to promote effective implementation of the convention, to improve bio-safety and bio-security at biological facilities, and to improve national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis. The Seventh Review Conference will be held no later than the end of 2011. BTWC
- 29 Nov. Meeting in Riga, Latvia, NATO issues the Riga Summit Declaration, in which member states agree to ease their restrictions on deploying troops against the Taliban in Afghanistan; endorse the Comprehensive Political Guidance, providing a framework and political direction for NATO's continuing transformation; reaffirm the NATO Open Door accession policy; announce that the NATO Response Force is fully operational; and invites Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia to join the Partnership for Peace programme. NATO
- 4 Dec. British Prime Minister Tony Blair announces the British Government's plan to maintain its independent nuclear deterrent, based on a new and smaller fleet of submarines carrying Trident missiles. The plan must be approved by the British Parliament. UK; Nuclear weapons

- 5 Dec.* In a coup d'état in Fiji, the armed forces, under Military Commander Frank Bainimarama dissolve the parliament, dismiss the prime minister, occupy government buildings and impose a state of emergency. In protest, the Commonwealth of Nations suspends Fiji from the organization on 8 Dec. Fiji; Commonwealth of Nations
- 5–8 Dec.* Meeting in The Hague, the Netherlands, the Conference of the States Parties to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) agrees that the final date for destruction of the chemical weapon stockpiles declared to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is extended from 2007 until 29 Apr. 2012. CWC
- 6 Dec.* The Iraq Study Group, created in Mar. by the US Congress and co-chaired by James Baker and Lee Hamilton, issues its report, calling for new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region (including Iran and Syria); and a change in the primary mission of US forces in Iraq that would enable the USA to begin moving its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly. USA/Iraq
- 6 Dec.* The UN General Assembly adopts, by a vote of 153–1 (the USA voting against), with 24 abstentions, Resolution 61/89, Towards an Arms Trade Treaty: Establishing Common International Standards for the Import, Export and Transfer of Conventional Arms (see *26 Oct.*). UN; Arms trade
- 6 Dec.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1725, authorizing the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU) to establish a protection and training mission in Somalia, with a mandate drawing on the relevant elements of the mandate and concept of operation specified in the Deployment Plan for the IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia (IGASOM). UN; IGAD; AU; Somalia
- 11 Dec.* In an interview for German television, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says that 'the Iranians are aspiring to have nuclear weapons just as America, France, Israel, Russia'. Israeli officials immediately deny that Israel has changed its policy of ambiguity on the possession of nuclear weapons. Israel; Nuclear weapons
- 15–18 Dec.* Clashes erupt in the Gaza Strip between rival Palestinian factions, Hamas and Fatah, after accusations from Hamas that Fatah had tried to assassinate Prime Minister Ismail Haniya on 14 Dec. On 16 Dec. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas calls for new presidential and parliamentary elections to end the violence in the region. Hamas rejects the call as a 'coup attempt'. On 18 Dec. Hamas officials state that they have agreed a truce with Fatah. Palestinians
- 18–22 Dec.* The sixth round of the Six-Party Talks (China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) is held in Beijing, China. The USA puts forward a package of incentives for North Korea to end its nuclear programme, but North Korea insists that it wants the USA to lift its financial sanctions before considering any discussion of its nuclear programme. The meeting ends without results or a date for the resumption of the talks. North Korea; Nuclear weapons

- 20–28 Dec.* Heavy fighting erupts in Baydhabo, Somalia, between troops from the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC). On 24 Dec. Ethiopia admits that its army is fighting in Somalia on the government side, and on 28 Dec. Ethiopian-backed government forces capture the Somali capital, Mogadishu. Somalia/  
Ethiopia
- 23 Dec.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1737, imposing sanctions on Iran for its failure to comply with Resolution 1696 and the requirements of the IAEA Board of Governors to halt its enrichment and reprocessing activities. The sanctions include a ban on the supply, sale or transfer of nuclear-related technology and equipment and impose an asset freeze on key individuals and companies (see *31 July*). Iran; Nuclear programme;  
UN; IAEA
- 30 Dec.* Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is executed by hanging in Baghdad, convicted for crimes against humanity. Iraq