

Annex B. Chronology 2003

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For the convenience of the reader, key words are indicated in the right-hand column, opposite each entry. They refer to the subject-areas covered in the entry. Definitions of the acronyms appear in the glossary on page xviii. The dates are according to local time.

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|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>1 Jan.</i> | The Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea, signed on 25 Apr. 2002 by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, enters into force. | Black Sea;
CBMs |
| <i>1 Jan.</i> | The mission of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya ceases its activities as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) participating states are unable to agree on an extension of its mandate. | OSCE;
Chechnya |
| <i>1 Jan.</i> | The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) begins its work in Sarajevo. It is the first EU civil crisis-management mission within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). | EU; Bosnia and
Herzegovina |
| <i>6 Jan.</i> | The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopts Resolution GOV/2003/3 on the implementation of NPT safeguards in North Korea, demanding the re-admission of IAEA inspectors to North Korea. | North Korea;
IAEA;
Safeguards |
| <i>9 Jan.</i> | Chadian Foreign Minister Mahamat Saleh Annadif and Alliance Nationale de la Résistance (ANR, National Resistance Army) representative Mahamat Garfa sign, in Libreville, Gabon, a peace agreement providing for an immediate cease-fire and a general amnesty for all ANR fighters and supporters. | Chad |
| <i>10 Jan.</i> | The Government of North Korea announces its immediate withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its total freedom from the binding force of its NPT safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but states that it has no intention to produce nuclear weapons. The withdrawal takes effect on 10 Apr. (see <i>18 June</i>). | North Korea;
NPT;
Safeguards |
| <i>25 Jan.</i> | Israeli armed forces conduct the most extensive military operation in the Gaza Strip since the second Intifada began, in 2000, and impose a complete closure of the Palestinian territories until after Israel's general election on 28 Jan. | Israel/
Palestinians |

- 26 Jan.–
4 Feb. Representatives of the main political parties and rebel factions in Côte d'Ivoire sign, in Paris, the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, ending the four-month civil war. On 4 Feb. the UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1464, endorsing the agreement and welcoming the deployment of forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and French troops to contribute to a peaceful solution of the crisis and the implementation of the agreement. Côte d'Ivoire; UN
- 30 Jan. The prime ministers of eight European countries—the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK—issue a joint statement calling for a united European policy on Iraq and declaring their support for the policy of the US Administration on Iraq. Iraq/Europe
- 3 Feb. The member states of the African Union (AU), meeting in Addis Ababa, agree to establish the Peace and Security Council (PSC), giving the AU the power to intervene in conflicts on the African continent. AU
- 4 Feb. The Yugoslav Parliament adopts the Constitutional Charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and the Law for Implementation by a majority of votes. Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro
- 5 Feb. US Secretary of State Colin Powell presents the US report on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to the UN Security Council. Iraq; USA; UN
- 5 Feb. North Korea states that it has restarted its nuclear facility at Yongbyon. North Korea; Nuclear programme
- 9 Feb. Iran declares that it has for the first time started to mine uranium and is planning to open a facility to process the ore into fuel, vowing to move ahead with a nuclear programme which it claims is solely for electricity generation. Iran; Nuclear programme
- 10 Feb. Following the veto by Belgium, France and Germany of the US request to undertake prudent contingency planning to deter or defend against threats to Turkey in the event of a war on Iraq, NATO holds consultations called by Turkey, under Article 4 of the 1949 Washington Treaty. On 16 Feb. the NATO Defence Planning Committee (without French participation) agrees to begin military planning for the defence of Turkey. Turkey; NATO; Iraq
- 12 Feb. The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopts Resolution GOV/2003/12 on the implementation of safeguards in North Korea and decides to report to the UN Security Council North Korea's non-compliance with its obligations under its NPT safeguards agreement. North Korea; IAEA; Safeguards
- 21 Feb. The Chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Hans Blix, gives Iraq a deadline of 1 Mar. to present 'for verifiable destruction' all its Al Samoud 2 short-range (150- to 180-km) surface-to-surface missiles. On 1 Mar. Iraq begins to destroy the missiles. Iraq; UNMOVIC; Missiles

- 24 Feb. Spain, the UK and the USA submit a draft resolution on Iraq to the UN Security Council stating 'that Iraq has failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it in Resolution 1441'. France, Germany and Russia submit a memorandum to the Security Council calling for continued UN weapon inspections. UN; Iraq
- 1 Mar. The Turkish Parliament rejects the USA's request to deploy troops in Turkey as part of the preparations for the attack on Iraq. Turkey; USA
- 1 Mar. The person suspected of planning the 11 Sep. 2001 attacks on the USA, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, is arrested in a joint Pakistani-US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operation in Pakistan. USA; Terrorism
- 4 Mar. In a bomb attack at the airport in Davao, the Philippines, at least 21 people are killed and more than 100 are wounded. On 5 Mar. five members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are detained in connection with the bombing, which is the most deadly terrorist attack in the Philippines in three years. Philippines; Terrorism
- 6 Mar. The US Senate ratifies the 2002 US-Russian Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT). SORT
- 7 Mar. The Chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Hans Blix, submits a report to the UN Security Council on the inspections in Iraq. Blix states that Iraq has displayed 'active' or even 'proactive' cooperation with UNMOVIC, although a number of key disarmament tasks remain. Iraq; UNMOVIC
- 9 Mar. Meeting in Accra, Ghana, the parties to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement agree to set up a national unity government of reconciliation headed by Prime Minister Seydou Diarra. Fierce fighting is also reported to be taking place in the city of Bangolo, killing several hundred people. Côte d'Ivoire
- 10 Mar. The Palestinian Parliament votes in favour of creating the post of Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat will remain in control of security and foreign policy, including peace talks with Israel, and the Prime Minister will be in charge of internal affairs. Palestinians
- 12 Mar. Prime Minister of the Serbian Republic Zoran Djindjic is assassinated in Belgrade. Serbia and Montenegro
- 12 Mar. Russia and the USA sign the Implementing Agreement for the Elimination of Weapons Grade Plutonium Production (EWGPP), under which Russia pledges to stop production. The agreement resolves the last outstanding issues related to the 1997 Russia-USA Plutonium Production Reactor Agreement (PPRA). Russia; Plutonium
- 14 Mar. Meeting in Athens, Greek Foreign Minister George Papan-dreu and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson sign the EU-NATO Agreement on the Security of Information, enabling the exchange of classified information and related material between NATO and the EU. EU/NATO

- 15–16 Mar. In the Central African Republic, former army chief General François Bozize seizes control of the country in a coup d'état, suspends the constitution and dissolves the parliament. France sends troops to protect French and other foreign citizens in the country. Central African Republic
- 16 Mar. The Commonwealth of Nations announces that the suspension of Zimbabwe from the organization is extended until the end of 2003 (see 7 Dec.). Zimbabwe; Commonwealth of Nations
- 17 Mar. US President George W. Bush states that 'Saddam Hussein and his sons must leave Iraq within 48 hours' and that 'their refusal to do so will result in military conflict, commenced at a time of our choosing'. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announces that all UN personnel will be withdrawn from Iraq because of the failure of the efforts to disarm Iraq peacefully. Iraq; USA; UN
- 17 Mar. NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson announces that the Berlin Plus Agreement, in line with the 1999 NATO Washington Summit Declaration on arrangements for access by the EU to NATO's collective assets for European-led operations, has been finalized. EU; NATO; Berlin Plus
- 17 Mar. The Government of the Republic of Congo and the Conseil national de la résistance (CNR, National Resistance Council) rebel group sign, in Brazzaville, two agreements to end the fighting in the south-western Pool region. Republic of Congo
- 20 Mar. US and British forces launch Operation Iraqi Freedom against Iraq by firing cruise missiles at 'targets of military importance' in the southern part of Baghdad. Iraq responds to the attack by firing missiles at US troops in Kuwait. Iraq/USA/UK
- 20 Mar. US forces launch Operation Valiant Strike against suspected al-Qaeda and Taliban hideouts near the city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. Afghanistan; USA
- 31 Mar. The NATO Operation Allied Harmony in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is terminated and formally replaced by the EU-led Operation Concordia. EU; NATO; FYROM
- 2 Apr. Representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Union of the Congolese Patriots (UPC) and the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) rebel groups sign, in Sun City, South Africa, the Final Act, which contains several documents, including a new constitution and a document on a power-sharing administration. The Final Act endorses the peace agreement of 17 Dec. 2002 and the draft transitional constitution agreement reached on 7 Mar. DRC
- 9 Apr. The US-led coalition forces gain control of Baghdad. Iraq; USA
- 18 Apr. During a visit to Indian-administered Kashmir, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee offers to hold talks with Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute. The offer is conditional on Pakistan's stopping the infiltration of Islamic militants into Indian Kashmir. India/Pakistan

- 29 Apr. At a summit meeting on defence held in Brussels, Belgium, EU; France, Germany and Luxembourg adopt a statement on the strengthening of European defence capabilities. The statement is presented to the European Convention and to the Thessaloniki European Council of 19–20 June 2003. Belgium/France/Germany/Luxembourg
- 30 Apr. The UN, the EU, Russia and the USA (the ‘Quartet’) present, to the Palestinian and Israeli leaders, a ‘road map’ for a permanent two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. Israel/Palestinians
- 1 May US President George W. Bush announces that the major combat operations in Iraq have ended and that the coalition forces ‘have prevailed’. Iraq; USA
- 6 May US President George W. Bush appoints former US Department of State official L. Paul Bremer as the Presidential Envoy to Iraq. Iraq; USA
- 12 May Three separate, coordinated suicide bomb attacks on foreign housing compounds in Riyadh kill at least 34 people and wound several others. Saudi Arabia; Terrorism
- 12 May A terrorist attack against the regional headquarters of the Federal'naya Sluzhba Bezopasnosti (FSB, Federal Security Service) in Znamenskoye, Chechnya, kills 52 and wounds several hundred people. Chechnya; Terrorism
- 19 May Following the breakdown of the negotiations on independence for the province of Aceh, held in Tokyo, the Indonesian Government places Aceh under martial law and starts a major military operation against the rebels of the Gerakin Aceh Merdeka (GAM, Free Aceh Movement). Indonesia/Aceh
- 21 May The Framework Agreement on a Multilateral Nuclear Environmental Programme in the Russian Federation (MNEPR Agreement) is signed in Stockholm by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the UK, the USA, the European Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). The MNEPR Agreement facilitates cooperation on the safety of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Russia. Russia; Fissile materials
- 22 May The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 14–0, with Syria not participating, Resolution 1483 on Iraq, granting wide interim governing powers to the USA and the UK as the occupying powers, calling for the appointment of a UN Special Representative to work with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), and lifting the sanctions imposed in Aug. 1990 following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. UN; Iraq; USA; UK
- 28 May The Russian Federation Council ratifies the 2002 US–Russian Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT). On 1 June SORT enters into force. SORT
- 30 May The US Department of Defense announces the creation of the Iraq Survey Group (ISG), to expand and consolidate the efforts to search for and eliminate weapons of mass destruction in Iraq at one, national-level headquarters in Baghdad. Iraq; USA; WMD

- 1–3 June* The leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized nations, meeting in Evian, France, issue a statement on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They endorse an Action Plan on the Prevention of Radiological Terrorism and the Securing of Radioactive Sources and an Action Plan on Capacity Building against Terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) is created in support of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established in Sep. 2001. G8; WMD
- 4 June* Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, King Abdullah of Jordan and US President George W. Bush meet in Aqaba, Jordan, to discuss the ‘road map’ for peace in the Middle East (see *30 Apr.*). The Israeli and Palestinian leaders agree to the peace plan. Middle East; USA
- 6 June* Peace negotiations between the Government of Liberia and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) rebel groups open in Accra, Ghana. The LURD representatives insist that President Charles Taylor be removed from power. On 17 June a ceasefire agreement is signed, envisaging within 30 days an Interim Government without Taylor. Liberia
- 6 June* UN Legal Counsel Hans Corell and Cambodian Senior Minister Sok An sign an agreement on the establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers for Cambodia, a special court to try surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge for genocide and crimes against humanity committed during their rule in 1975–79. Cambodia; UN; War crimes
- 12 June* Operation Artemis, a EU-led crisis-management mission under UN Security Council mandate, is deployed in the north-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It is the first EU out-of-area operation. EU/DRC
- 16 June* The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC), meeting in Luxembourg, endorses the Basic Principles for an EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and approves the Action Plan for the implementation of the Basic Principles. EU; WMD
- 18 June* The North Korean media for the first time publicly acknowledge that North Korea has a nuclear weapon programme. Officials state that the country will never abandon its nuclear weapon programme without concessions from the USA. North Korea; Nuclear weapons
- 19–20 June* The European Council meeting held in Thessaloniki, Greece, endorses the document ‘A secure Europe in a better world: European Security Strategy’, drawn up by Javier Solana, and the Declaration on Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. EU; WMD
- 25–26 June* Meeting in Vienna, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) holds its First Annual Security Review Conference, producing recommendations to address threats and challenges to the collective security of the OSCE member states. OSCE

- 30 June The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Joseph Kabila, announces the establishment of the transitional government under the Final Act signed on 2 Apr. The new government is sworn in on 15 July. DRC
- 10 July The Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, adopted in 2002 by the Organization of American States (OAS), enters into force. OAS; Terrorism
- 13 July The Iraqi Governing Council (IGC), consisting of 25 members appointed by the US-led coalition occupying Iraq, holds its first meeting. Iraq
- 17 July Russia and the USA sign, in Moscow, agreements on arrangements for access to the closed Russian nuclear cities of Seversk and Zheleznogorsk to begin the work of closing the last weapon-grade plutonium production reactors in Russia. The agreements are a part of the US–Russian Elimination of Weapons Grade Plutonium Production Program (EWGPP) (see 12 Mar.). Russia/USA; Nuclear programme
- 21 July Lord Hutton is appointed by the British Government to conduct the Investigation into the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Dr David Kelly (the Hutton Inquiry), with reference to the 2002 government dossier on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction which was cited as a basis for the UK to participate in the war on Iraq. UK; WMD
- 28 July The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1493, extending the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for one year and increasing its military strength, and imposing an arms embargo against all Congolese and other armed groups in the eastern DRC. UN; DRC
- 5 Aug. In Jakarta, a car bomb kills at least 14 people and injures more than 100. An Islamic organization, Jemaah Islamiah (JI), is blamed for the attack. Indonesia; Terrorism
- 11 Aug. NATO assumes command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF IV) in Afghanistan. NATO will work within the same UN mandate as ISAF III and will operate according to current and future UN resolutions. It is the first NATO out-of-area operation. Afghanistan; NATO; UN
- 11 Aug. Liberian President Charles Taylor hands over the administration of the Liberian Government to Vice-President Moses Blah and leaves the country. Taylor is granted asylum in Nigeria. On 18 Aug. the Interim Government and two rebel groups—the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL)—sign, in Accra, Ghana, a peace agreement providing for a power-sharing administration and democratic elections to be held no later than 2005. Liberia

- 19 Aug. A car bomb explodes outside the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, killing at least 20 people and wounding several others. Among those killed is the UN Special Representative in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Iraq; Terrorism
- 19 Aug. A suicide bomb attack on a bus in Jerusalem, Israel, kills up to 20 people and injures about 80. Both Islamic Jihad and Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas) claim responsibility for the attack. The Israeli Government responds by cutting off all contact with the Palestinian leadership, withdrawing from the peace talks, and closing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel/
Palestinians;
Terrorism
- 21 Aug. As a response to the suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem on 19 Aug., Israeli Army helicopters fire several missiles at a car in Gaza City, killing a leader of the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas), Ismael Abu Shanab. Hamas declares an end to the truce announced on 29 June. Israel/
Palestinians
- 26 Aug. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) releases a report on the Iranian nuclear programme stating that 'there remain a number of important outstanding issues that require urgent resolution'. The report presents new information about Iran's nuclear activities and reveals inconsistencies in previous Iranian declarations under its NPT safeguards agreement. Iran; IAEA;
Safeguards;
Nuclear
programme
- 26 Aug. Meeting in Dar es Salaam, the members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) sign the Mutual Defence Pact on the promotion of regional cooperation in politics, defence and security. SADC
- 27–29 Aug. Delegates from China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA, meeting in Beijing, hold discussions on ending the 10-month dispute over North Korea's insistence on resuming its nuclear programme. North Korea;
Nuclear
programme
- 4 Sep. Meeting in Paris, 11 countries—Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the UK and the USA—sign the Statement on Interdiction Principles for the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). The PSI had been announced on 31 May in Krakow, Poland, by US President George W. Bush. PSI; WMD
- 11 Sep. The Israeli Government states its intention to expel Palestinian President Yasser Arafat from the West Bank, since it considers him as an 'obstacle to peace'. The decision follows two suicide attacks carried out by Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas) on 9 Sep. Israel/
Palestinians
- 12 Sep. The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 13–0 with 2 abstentions (France and the USA), Resolution 1506, lifting the sanctions imposed on Libya after the bombing in 1988 of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The sanctions are lifted when Libya agrees to pay up to \$10 million to each of the families of the 270 victims. Libya; UN

- 12 Sep. The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopts Resolution GOV/2003/69 on the implementation of Iran's NPT safeguards agreement, calling on Iran to accelerate cooperation with the IAEA and to provide the full transparency needed for the Agency to complete its verification task. Iran; IAEA; Safeguards; Nuclear programme
- 19 Sep. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1509, establishing the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for a period of 12 months and transferring authority from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL) forces to UNMIL. Liberia; UN; UNMIL
- 19 Sep. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference unanimously adopts Resolution GC(47)/RES/12, calling on North Korea to promptly accept comprehensive IAEA safeguards and to cooperate with the Agency in their full and effective implementation. North Korea; IAEA; Safeguards
- 25 Sep. Meeting in Naivasha, Kenya, representatives of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) sign the Framework Agreement on Security Arrangements During the Interim Period, for southern Sudan. Under the agreement Sudan will, for a six-year interim period, have two armies under separate command and control. Eighty per cent of the government armed forces in the south will be withdrawn. Sudan
- 1 Oct. The Israeli Cabinet approves the second phase of the controversial project to erect a barrier with a sophisticated security system along the entire border of the West Bank with the aim of shielding Israel from Palestinian suicide bombers. The first phase was initiated in June 2002. Israel/Palestinians
- 5 Oct. Following a suicide bomb attack by the Palestinian group Islamic Jihad on 4 Oct. in Haifa, Israel, the Israeli Air Force carries out an air raid on the Ein Saheb camp in Syria. This is the first Israeli attack on Syria in more than 20 years. The UN Security Council holds an emergency meeting called by Syria. Israel/Palestinians; Terrorism; UN; Syria
- 13 Oct. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1510, authorizing the expansion of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to provide for security outside the Afghan capital Kabul. ISAF will start by sending German troops to the northern city of Kunduz. The ISAF mandate is extended for a period of 12 months as of 20 Dec. UN; NATO; Afghanistan; ISAF
- 14 Oct. Representatives of the Government of Serbia and Montenegro and the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) hold meetings, in Vienna, brokered by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Kosovo, Harri Holkeri. These are the first talks since the 1999 NATO bombing campaign. Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo

- 15 Oct. The NATO Response Force (NRF), mandated in 2002, is officially launched at the Allied Forces North Europe (AFNORTH) Headquarters in Brunssum, the Netherlands. The NRF will be fully operational, with 21 000 troops, in Oct. 2006. NATO
- 16 Oct. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1511, outlining the roles of the UN, the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) in the efforts to bring peace and stability to Iraq. It authorizes a multinational force under unified command. The IGC is requested to draw up a plan for a new constitution and elections. UN; Iraq
- 21 Oct. Meeting with the Iranian Government in Tehran, the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the UK issue the Statement by the Iranian Government and Visiting EU Foreign Ministers on Nuclear Issues. Iran agrees to temporarily stop enriching and reprocessing uranium and to allow short-notice inspections, under its safeguards agreement, of its nuclear facilities to end the international dispute over its suspected nuclear weapon programme. Iran; IAEA; Safeguards; Nuclear programme
- 21 Oct. The 11th Annual Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting presents the Bangkok Declaration on Partnership for the Future, containing commitments to promote regional security, to dismantle terrorist groups that threaten the APEC economies and to strengthen weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation efforts. APEC; WMD
- 21 Oct. The UN General Assembly, meeting in Emergency Session, adopts, with 144 votes in favour, 4 against and 12 abstaining, Resolution A/RES/ES-10/13, demanding that Israel halt the construction of the security barrier in the West Bank and calling for the existing stretches of the barrier to be removed (see 1 Oct.). UN; Israel
- 23–24 Oct. Meeting in Madrid, the International Donors Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq, with representatives of more than 70 countries and international organizations, raises pledges for a total of \$33 billion, including \$20 billion promised by the USA. Iraq
- 27 Oct. In Baghdad, the Iraqi Headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and four police stations are attacked in five suicide bomb attacks. The attacks kill at least 35 people and wound around 200. Iraq; Terrorism
- 27–28 Oct. The Organization of American States (OAS) Special Conference on Security, meeting in Mexico D.F., adopts the Declaration on Security in the Americas addressing a new expanded security structure for the region. OAS

- 4 Nov. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan establishes the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, announced in his address to the UN General Assembly on 23 Sep. The panel will examine the major threats and challenges to international peace and security, including economic and social issues, and make recommendations for the elements of collective response. UN
- 10 Nov. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors receives a report from Director General Mohamed ElBaradei describing the IAEA's activities to verify Iran's implementation of its safeguards agreement. The report states that Iran clearly has 'failed to meet its obligations'. Iran; IAEA
- 13 Nov. Meeting in Tokyo, 12 Asian nations—Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam—and representatives from Australia and the USA hold the first Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP). Asia; WMD
- 15 Nov. Car bombs explode outside two synagogues in Istanbul, killing more than 20 people and wounding several hundred. Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for the attacks. Turkey; Terrorism
- 15 Nov. The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) sign an agreement establishing 30 June 2004 as the date when the Transitional Government will assume power in Iraq. The Transitional Government will prepare for a sovereign Iraqi government by the end of 2005, following a general election. Iraq
- 16 Nov. The Government of Burundi and the Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie—Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (CNDD-FDD, National Council for the Defence of Democracy—Forces for the Defence of Democracy) rebel group sign, in Dar es Salaam, the Pretoria Protocol on Political, Defence and Security Power Sharing in Burundi, agreed on 8 Oct., under which the FDD will gain both political and military power. The other large rebel group in Burundi, the Forces Nationales de Liberation (FNL, National Liberation Force), rejects the agreement. Burundi
- 17 Nov. The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) decides to create a European Defence Agency for defence capabilities, research, acquisition and armaments, to be established in 2004. EU
- 20 Nov. Bomb attacks on the British Consulate and the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC Bank) headquarters in Istanbul kill at least 27 people and injure more than 450. Turkey; Terrorism
- 23 Nov. Pakistani Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali announces a unilateral ceasefire along the Line of Control (LOC) dividing the disputed area of Kashmir. The Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responds positively to the initiative and on 25 Nov. the ceasefire is fully implemented by both sides. India/Pakistan

- 23 Nov. After several days of political unrest, culminating in the storming of the parliament building in Tbilisi by supporters of the opposition, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze is forced to resign. The protests started after the elections of 2 Nov., which were declared fraudulent by international observers. Georgia
- 28 Nov. Meeting in Geneva, the states parties 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) adopt the text of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) (Protocol V). CCW
- 28–29 Nov. At the EU Foreign Ministers' meeting in Naples, Italy, France, Germany and the UK reach informal agreement on a joint defence arrangement for Europe. The agreement includes plans for defence cooperation and a European military headquarters. France/
Germany/UK/
EU
- 30 Nov. In three attacks on US convoys in Samarra, Iraq, US troops kill 54 Iraqi militants and wound around 20. The fighting is the heaviest since the war in Iraq officially ended, on 1 May. Iraq
- 1 Dec. After two and a half years of secret negotiations led by former Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin and former Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, an alternative unofficial peace plan for the Middle East is launched in Geneva. The Geneva Accord calls for a two-state solution. It has European backing and verbal support from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Middle East;
Israel/
Palestinians
- 2 Dec. The USA, supported by coalition forces, the Afghan Army and militia forces, launches Operation Avalanche. It is the largest offensive in Afghanistan since the end of the 2002 war, with more than 2000 soldiers, against Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents in the south-eastern parts of Afghanistan. Afghanistan;
USA
- 7 Dec. At the meeting of the Commonwealth of Nations in Abuja, Nigeria, Zimbabwe withdraws from the organization. Zimbabwe;
Commonwealth
of Nations
- 9 Dec. The Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) announces the formal establishment of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, to try officials of Saddam Hussein's regime, with Iraqi judges presiding and international legal experts as advisers. Iraq; War
crimes
- 9 Dec. The Japanese Government decides to send up to 1000 non-combat troops to Iraq, the largest deployment of Japanese forces since World War II. In line with Japan's pacifist constitution, the troops play only a humanitarian role. Japan
- 12–13 Dec. The European Council, meeting in Brussels, adopts the European Security Strategy and the EU Strategy Against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (see 19–20 June). The meeting ends without agreement on the adoption of a Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe. EU; WMD
- 13 Dec. Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is found and arrested by US-led coalition forces outside Tikrit, Iraq. Iraq; USA

- 15 Dec.* The EU police mission Operation Proxima replaces the EU Operation Concordia mission in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). EU; FYROM
- 16 Dec.* The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC) is presented in Stockholm by its chairman, Hans Blix. The commission is an initiative of the Swedish Government based on a proposal made by UN Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Jayantha Dhanapala on 18 May 2002. WMDC
- 18 Dec.* Iran signs an Additional Safeguards Protocol to its NPT safeguards agreement, allowing the IAEA to conduct inspections of the Iranian nuclear industry at short notice, and states that it will act as though the protocol is already in force. Iran; IAEA; Safeguards
- 19 Dec.* After talks with representatives of the UK and the USA, Libya announces its decision to abandon its weapons of mass destruction programme and to accept immediate international inspections under its NPT safeguards agreement. On 27 Dec. a team of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors arrive in Tripoli. Libya; IAEA; WMD; Safeguards

