

Annex B. Chronology 2004

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For the convenience of the reader, key words are indicated in the right-hand column, opposite each entry. The dates are according to local time.

- 2 Jan. North Korea invites US experts to visit its nuclear facility at Yongbyon for the first time since International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors were forced to leave North Korea on 31 Dec. 2002. On 6 Jan., when the US experts arrive, the North Korean Government issues a statement in which it offers to suspend the testing and production of nuclear weapons and to freeze its nuclear industry. USA; North Korea; Nuclear weapons
- 6 Jan. At the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) summit meeting, held in Islamabad, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee issue a joint statement on their agreement to hold discussions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute (see also 16–18 Feb.). India/Pakistan
- 7 Jan. Meeting in Naivasha, Kenya, representatives of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/A) sign the Agreement on Wealth Sharing During the Pre-Interim and Interim Period. Under the agreement the oil revenues of Sudan will be divided equally between the parties and a presidential commission will be set up to oversee the management of the oil contracts. Sudan
- 12 Jan. Meeting in Beijing, the US Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham, and the Chairman of the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA), Zhang Huazu, sign a Statement of Intent establishing a process for cooperation and collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on nuclear non-proliferation. China; USA; IAEA; Non-proliferation
- 16 Jan. Japan sends peacekeeping forces to Iraq. This is the first time since World War II that Japan sends troops to a combat zone. Japan; Peacekeeping
- 28 Jan. Lord Hutton delivers his report on the 'Investigation into the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Dr David Kelly' (Hutton Inquiry). The investigation finds that the BBC reports claiming that the British Government had 'sexed up' its dossier of Sep. 2002 on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were unfounded. UK; Iraq; WMD
- 29 Jan. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni requests the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate possible crimes against humanity committed by the rebel group Lord's Resistance Army in the northern parts of Uganda. The ICC investigation is opened on 29 July. Uganda; ICC

- 2 Feb. In an interview with *Haaretz*, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon states that he has ordered a plan for the evacuation of 17 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. No timetable for the withdrawal is given. On 5 Apr. Sharon confirms his plan and states that 'in the unilateral plan, there is no Palestinian state'. Israel/
Palestinians
- 3 Feb. The British Government announces the establishment of the Committee to Review Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction (Butler Inquiry). The Commission presents its report on the intelligence used to justify the war against Iraq on 14 July. UK; WMD
- 6 Feb. US President George W. Bush establishes the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. (The Commission reports its findings and recommendations to the President on 31 Mar. 2005.) USA; WMD
- 6–29 Feb. In an outbreak of political violence against Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a rebel group, Revolutionary Artibonite Resistance Front, takes control of the city of Gonaives. The uprising spreads throughout the country and on 29 Feb., after the rebel groups reach Port-au-Prince, Aristide relinquishes power and flees the country. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1529, authorizing the deployment of a Multinational Interim Force (MIF) to restore security and stability in Haiti (see also 30 Apr.). Aristide claims from his exile in the Central African Republic that he was forced to leave Haiti. Haiti; UN
- 11 Feb. US President George W. Bush proposes steps to help combat the development and spread of weapons of mass destruction; to strengthen the laws and international controls on proliferation; to restrict the sale and transport of nuclear technologies; to close a loophole in the nuclear non-proliferation regimes that allow states to pursue WMD under false pretext; and to expand efforts to secure and destroy nuclear weapons and materials. USA; WMD
- 16–18 Feb. Meeting in Islamabad, representatives of the Indian and Pakistani foreign ministries start the Composite Dialogue and agree on a 'road map' for peace in Jammu and Kashmir, beginning with high-level talks on 27 June. India/Pakistan
- 23 Feb. At the request of the UN General Assembly, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) starts the hearings on the legality of Israel's controversial West Bank barrier. Israel boycotts the hearings. The ICJ issues its advisory opinion on 9 July (see also 20 July). Israel/
Palestinians;
ICJ
- 25 Feb. Meeting in Beijing, delegates from China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA resume the Six-Party Talks of Aug. 2003 on North Korea's nuclear programme. On 26 Feb. North Korea offers to halt its nuclear activities in return for 'corresponding measures' from the USA. North Korea;
Nuclear
programme

- 27 Feb. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1528, establishing the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) as of 4 Apr. 2004. Côte d'Ivoire; UN; Peacekeeping
- 27 Feb. The USA announces a new policy regarding landmines, containing four key elements: the USA will after 2010 not use persistent landmines of any type; within one year the USA will no longer have any non-detectable mine of any type in its arsenal; concerted efforts will be directed to the development of alternatives to the current persistent landmines; and the president will request a 50% increase in the Department of State budget for worldwide humanitarian mine-action programmes. USA; Mines
- 28 Feb. Meeting in Sirte, Libya, the Assembly of the African Union (AU) adopts the Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy, establishing an African Standby Force, under the authority of the AU Peace and Security Council, for the intervention to end civil wars on the African continent. AU
- 10 Mar. Libya signs an NPT Additional Safeguards Protocol with the IAEA. Libya; IAEA; Safeguards
- 11 Mar. In a series of explosions at train stations in Madrid, 191 people are killed and over 1400 wounded. Spanish officials blame the attack on the Basque separatist group Euzkadi ta Azkatasuna (ETA, Basque Fatherland and Liberty). The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1530, condemning the ETA for the attacks. (No links to the ETA are found.) The London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Quds* receives a message from the Abu Hafs al-Masr Brigades, a group linked to al-Qaeda, claiming responsibility for the attacks. Spain; Terrorism
- 12 Mar. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1533, establishing a committee to monitor the arms embargo imposed by Security Council Resolution 1493 (2003), against all armed groups operating in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The resolution also condemns the illicit flow of weapons into the DRC. DRC; UN; Arms embargoes
- 22 Mar. Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader and founder of the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas), is killed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza City. Israel/ Palestinians
- 25 Mar. The Brussels European Council adopts the Declaration on Combating Terrorism and appoints Gijs de Vries as the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator. EU; Terrorism
- 29 Mar. At a ceremony in Washington, DC, NATO formally admits seven new members—Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Their instruments of accession are deposited with the US Government. NATO

- 31 Mar.* UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan presents, in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, a final plan for the reunification of Cyprus. The UN plan envisages a federation of two states with a loose central government, based on the Swiss model, and will be put to both the Greek and the Turkish parts of Cyprus in referenda on 24 Apr. Cyprus; UN
- 31 Mar.* Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Kosovo, Harri Holkeri, presents, in Pristina, Kosovo's Standards Implementation Plan, drawn up by the UN Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the government of the province of Kosovo. The plan envisages the creation of functioning democratic institutions and the continuation of the dialogue between the Government of Serbia and Montenegro and the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, initiated in Oct. 2003. Kosovo; Serbia and Montenegro; UN
- 4–7 Apr.* As a response to an uprising of Iraqi Shia Muslims led by Muqtada al-Sadr, the US-led coalition forces launch their largest offensive since the formal ending of the Iraq war in May 2003. Coalition forces attack Sadr City and begin a month-long siege of the city of Falluja. Iraq; USA
- 17 Apr.* The head of the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas), Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, is killed in Gaza in an Israeli missile strike targeted at his automobile. On 18 Apr. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemns the action and calls on Israel to end its practice of extrajudicial killings, in violation of international law. Israel/Palestinians; UN
- 21 Apr.* Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, officials from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, the Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda adopt the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa, obliging the governments to address the problem of internal conflicts and to curb the circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the region. Africa; SALW
- 24 Apr.* Cyprus holds a referendum on the reunification plan proposed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 31 Mar. The Greek Cypriots vote against the plan, while the Turkish Cypriots endorse it. As a result, only the Greek part of Cyprus becomes a member of the EU on 1 May. Cyprus; EU
- 28 Apr.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1540, deciding that all states shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. UN; WMD; Terrorism
- 30 Apr.* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1542, establishing the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which will replace the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) on 1 June. Haiti; UN

- 1 May* The EU formally admits 10 new members—Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. EU
- 9 May* Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov and up to 30 other people are killed in a bomb attack in Grozny. Chechen rebels are blamed for the attack. Chechnya
- 17 May* The head of the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC), Ezzedine Salim, and several other people are killed in a car bomb explosion close to the US-led coalition headquarters in Baghdad. Iraq
- 17–25 May* Following the killing of five Israeli soldiers in Gaza City on 11 May, the Israeli Army launches a military offensive with tanks and bulldozers, destroying houses in the Palestinian Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Several people are killed and wounded, and about 100 houses are destroyed. Israeli officials claim that the camp is a base for the smuggling of weapons from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. On 25 May Israel announces a pause in the operation and withdraws from Rafah. Israel/
Palestinians
- 19 May* The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 14–0, with 1 abstention (the USA), Resolution 1544, calling on Israel to stop the demolition of Palestinian homes in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. UN; Israel/
Palestinians
- 22 May* At the meeting of the Commonwealth of Nations in London, the suspension of Pakistan from the Council of the organization is lifted. (Pakistan was suspended in 1999 after a military coup led by General Pervez Musharraf.) Pakistan;
Commonwealth
of Nations
- 25 May* Meeting in Addis Ababa, the African Union (AU) officially inaugurates the AU Peace and Security Council. AU
- 26 May* Meeting in Naivasha, Kenya, representatives of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/A) sign three protocols on: Power Sharing; the Resolution of the Conflict in Abyei Area; and the Resolution of the Conflict in the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile Area. Together with three previous agreements—the 2002 Machakos Protocol, the 2003 Agreement on Security Arrangements, and the 2004 Agreement on Wealth Sharing (see also *7 Jan.*)—the new protocols will constitute a part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (see also *31 Dec.*). Sudan
- 26 May* US Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announces the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, aiming at the removal of and/or securing of high-risk nuclear and radiological materials and equipment that poses a threat to the USA and the international community. USA; Nuclear
arms control
- 1 June* The Iraqi Governing Council decides to dissolve itself with immediate effect and the Iraqi Interim Government is sworn in. Ghazi Yawer is appointed president and Ayad Allawi prime minister. The new government will focus on implementing the special arrangements to transfer full sovereignty to Iraq. Iraq

- 5 June* Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, representatives of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/A) issue the Nairobi Declaration on the Final Phase of Peace in the Sudan, reconfirming their agreements of 26 May. Sudan
- 8 June* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1546, endorsing the formation of the Iraqi Interim Government and the holding of democratic elections by Jan. 2005. It welcomes the end of the occupation by 30 June and determines the status of the Multinational Force, its relationship with the Iraqi Government and the role of the UN in the political transition. Iraq; UN
- 8–10 June* The leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized nations, meeting in Sea Island, Georgia, USA, adopt the Action Plan on Non-proliferation, to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the Action Plan on Expanding Global Capability for Peace Support Operations. G8; WMD; Peacekeeping
- 23–26 June* Meeting in Beijing, delegates from China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA continue the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programme. North Korea; Nuclear programme
- 26 June* At a Summit Meeting, Dromoland Castle, Ireland, the EU and the USA adopt the EU–US Declaration on the Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. EU; USA; WMD
- 27–28 June* Meeting in New Delhi, the Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries continue the Composite Dialogue, started on 16 Feb., on peace and security including confidence-building measures and on the disputed area of Jammu and Kashmir. India/Pakistan
- 28 June* At a ceremony in Baghdad, the Coalition Provisional Authority formally hands over sovereignty to the Iraqi Interim Government. Iraq
- 28 June* Meeting in Istanbul, the heads of state and government of the NATO member states issue a Statement on Iraq, the Istanbul Declaration—Our Security in a New Era, and the Istanbul Summit Communiqué. NATO; Iraq
- 30 June* Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is handed over to Iraqi legal custody by the US forces. On 1 July he is brought to the Iraqi Special Tribunal to hear the charges against him, including genocide against Kurds in Iraq and the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq
- 12 July* Meeting in Brussels, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council adopts the Joint Action establishing the European Defence Agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments; and the Joint Action on the European Union Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to replace by 2 Dec. 2004 the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) with the EUFOR ALTHEA. EU; NATO; Bosnia and Herzegovina

- 20 July* The UN General Assembly Emergency Special Session adopts, by a vote of 150–6 (Australia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau and the USA voting against) and 10 abstentions, Resolution ES-10/15, calling on Israel to comply with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion to halt the construction of its security barrier in the West Bank. Israel/
Palestinians;
UN; ICJ
- 22 July* The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (9/11 Commission) releases its final report with a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the 11 Sep. 2001 terrorist attacks on the USA, including the preparedness for and immediate response to the attacks. USA;
Terrorism
- 27 July* The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1552, renewing until 31 July 2005 the arms embargo, contained in Security Council Resolutions 1493 (2003) and 1533 (2004), against all armed groups operating in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It also renewed provisions for the establishment of a sanctions committee contained in Security Council Resolution 1533. DRC; UN;
Arms
embargoes
- 30 July* The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 13–0, with 2 abstentions (China and Pakistan), Resolution 1556, calling on the Sudanese Government to halt the atrocities committed by the Arab militias in the Darfur region within 30 days or face further action, including an arms embargo on all Sudanese non-governmental groups. The Darfur conflict and the following humanitarian crisis, with over 100 000 killed and over 1 million refugees, started in 2003 after rebel groups began attacking government targets, claiming that the region was being neglected by the Sudanese Government. Sudan; UN;
Arms
embargoes
- 30 July* Meeting in Accra, Ghana, under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and the UN, the President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, the Prime Minister of the Government of National Reconciliation, Seydou Elimane Diarra, and representatives of all the political forces of Côte d'Ivoire sign the Accra III Agreement, consolidating implementation of the peace process agreed in the 2003 Linas–Marcoussis Agreement. Côte d'Ivoire;
AU; UN
- 1–3 Sep.* Armed attackers, claimed to be Chechen rebels, seize a secondary school in Beslan, North Ossetian region, Russia, taking around 1000 people, mostly children, as hostage. On 3 Sep., after bomb blasts inside the school, Russian security forces storm the building. In the fighting between the hostage-takers and the soldiers there are several hundred casualties. Russia;
Terrorism
- 2 Sep.* The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 9–0, with 6 abstentions (Algeria, Brazil, China, Pakistan, Philippines and Russia), Resolution 1559, calling on all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon; for the disbanding and disarming of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias in Lebanon; and for support of the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory. Lebanon; UN

- 5 Sep. Israel starts building the southern section of the controversial barrier and sophisticated security system along the entire border of the West Bank with the aim of protecting Israel from Palestinian intrusion. (The first part of the barrier was erected in 2002.) Israel/
Palestinians
- 5–6 Sep. Meeting in New Delhi, the Indian and Pakistani foreign ministers begin the first official meeting at ministerial level since 2001 over the disputed area of Kashmir. India/Pakistan
- 16–17 Sep. EU defence ministers, meeting in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, agree to create ‘EU Battle Groups’, with initial operational capability in 2005. EU; ESDP
- 16–17 Sep. Meeting in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, the defence ministers of France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands sign the Declaration of Intent for a European Gendarmerie Force, creating a police force with military status to be deployed at short notice for peacekeeping missions. EU; ESDP
- 18 Sep. The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 11–0, with 4 abstentions (Algeria, China, Pakistan and Russia), Resolution 1564, calling on the Sudanese Government and the rebel groups in Darfur—the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLM/A)—to work together under the auspices of the African Union (AU) to reach ‘a political solution’. The resolution also declares the ‘grave concern’ that the Government of Sudan has not fully met its obligations noted in Resolution 1556 (see also 30 July). Sudan; UN;
AU
- 18 Sep. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors approves Resolution GOV/2004/79, demanding that Iran suspend all its activities relating to the enrichment of uranium. Iran responds to the resolution by saying that it would not accept any obligation attached to its uranium enrichment and that ‘no international body can force Iran to do so’. Iran; IAEA;
Nuclear
programme
- 20 Sep. US President George W. Bush issues an executive order lifting the US sanctions against Libya in place since 1986, except the arms embargo, and lifting the sanctions from 1992. Libya; USA;
Sanctions
- 6 Oct. The head of the US Iraq Survey Group (ISG), Charles Duelfer, presents the ISG final report, stating that Iraq had no stockpiles of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons at the time of the US-led invasion in Mar. 2003. Iraq; USA;
WMD
- 11 Oct. Meeting in Luxembourg, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council agrees to end the EU sanctions against Libya, in place since 1992, including the arms embargo imposed in 1986. Libya; EU;
Sanctions
- 29 Oct. Meeting in Rome, representatives of the governments of the 25 EU member states sign the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe. (The treaty will not enter into force until all the EU governments have ratified it, by a parliamentary vote or a referendum.) EU

- 11 Nov. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat dies in a hospital in Paris, France. Palestinians
- 11 Nov. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh issues a statement announcing the reduction of Indian forces deployed in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which begins on 17 Nov. when Singh pays his first visit to Kashmir. India; Kashmir
- 14 Nov. To resolve the dispute over its nuclear programme, Iran agrees to suspend most of its uranium enrichment programme, as part of a deal with the EU. The suspension will last for an unspecified period of time while Iran and the EU negotiate a larger package of economic and political benefits for Iran. On 22 Nov. Iran states that it has suspended its enrichment programme, meeting the deadline agreed with the EU. Iran; EU; Nuclear programme
- 15 Nov. Following attacks on French peacekeeping forces on 6–9 Nov., the UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1572, imposing an immediate 13-month arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire. Additional sanctions, including a travel ban and the freezing of assets for the warring parties, will take effect on 15 Dec., unless the implementation of the 2003 Linas–Marcoussis Agreement and the Accra III Agreement is revived (see also 30 July). Côte d'Ivoire; UN; Arms embargoes
- 21 Nov. The official results of the presidential elections in Ukraine declare Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych the winner against the opposition candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, sparking political tension and large demonstrations. Independent observers declare the elections flawed. On 25 Nov. the Ukrainian Supreme Court suspends publication of the results and on 27 Nov. the parliament declares the election invalid. Ukraine
- 22 Nov. Meeting in Brussels, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) endorses the Declaration on European Military Capabilities, committing the EU member states to further improvement of their military capabilities and to offer contributions to the EU Battle Groups. The GAERC also endorses the Ministerial Declaration of the Civilian Capabilities Commitment Conference, establishing operational planning and European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission support within the Council Secretariat, ensuring the EU's ability to conduct and plan several civilian crisis management operations simultaneously. EU; ESDP
- 29 Nov. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors approves Resolution GOV/2004/90 on the Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran, stating that the IAEA has been able to complete its verification of Iran's suspension of its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities. Iran; IAEA; Safeguards
- 1 Dec. The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, established by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Nov. 2003, presents its report 'A more secure world: our shared responsibility'. UN

- 2 Dec. The EU Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, (EUFOR ALTHEA), replaces the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) (see also 12 July). EU; NATO; Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 3 Dec. The UN General Assembly unanimously adopts Resolution 59/80, 'Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction', taking note of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (see also 28 Apr.). UN; WMD; Terrorism
- 9 Dec. The NATO–Russia Council agrees the Action Plan against Terrorism. The plan outlines measures to enhance the capabilities of NATO and Russia to act, individually and jointly, in three critical areas: preventing terrorism; combating terrorist activities; and managing the consequences of terrorist acts. NATO; Russia; Terrorism
- 9 Dec. Meeting in Brussels, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council agrees on the creation of the European Union Police Mission in Kinshasa (EUPOL-Kinshasa) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). EU; DRC
- 26 Dec. A re-run of the invalid presidential election of 21 Nov. is held in Ukraine and the opposition candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, is declared the winner. International observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), declare the re-run fairer than earlier rounds. Ukraine; OSCE
- 26 Dec. An earthquake registered in the Indian Ocean west of Aceh province, Indonesia, unleashes a series of massive tsunamis, causing devastation and massive loss of life in 12 countries around the rim of the Indian Ocean. By 30 Dec. the total death count was 124 000. Indian Ocean
- 30 Dec. The Government of Senegal and the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques du le Casamance (MFDC, Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance) sign a peace agreement in Ziguinchor, Senegal. Senegal
- 31 Dec. Meeting in Naivasha, Kenya, representatives of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/A) sign the Agreement on the Permanent Ceasefire and Security Agreements Implementation Modalities, and the Agreement on the Implementation Modalities of the Protocols and Agreements (see also 7 Jan. and 26 May). These agreements constitute an integral part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which does not cover the conflict in the Darfur region. Sudan