



**Inter-Office Memorandum**

7 April, 2004

Dear Staff,

Over the years, DPKO and UNHCR have successfully worked together in a number of critical operations, responding to crisis situations and promoting peace, while at the same time facing security threats in areas of conflict. These include situations as diverse as Kosovo, East Timor, Western Sahara, Afghanistan, and Central and West Africa.

Our cooperation clearly stems from the link between forced population displacement and endeavors to ensure international peace and security. As those of you working in the field are most keenly aware, the cross-border element inherent in refugee movements has implications on regional stability in any given situation. We have seen this most vividly in West Africa. Likewise, in post-conflict situations, repatriation operations can also have a major impact on stability, and thus the success of any peace process.

Yet despite this strong connection, our cooperation in the past has mostly been carried out on an ad hoc and informal basis, depending on the match of personalities in the field and other circumstances on the ground. For that reason, we decided to come to an agreement that would help make the present cooperation between UNHCR and DPKO stronger and more predictable. Attached is therefore a Note outlining some of the concrete areas where increased cooperation is both possible and in the interest of both DPKO and UNHCR.

In the spirit of building closer cooperation between UNCHR and DPKO, you are encouraged to explore these and other possible areas of collaboration in the field, bearing in mind available resources and mandates in place. This information note should be kept in mind in current and future endeavours such as in Sudan and Burundi depending on how the peace processes move forward in these countries.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Marie Guéhenno

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.-M. Guéhenno'.

Under-Secretary-General  
Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Ruud Lubbers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruud Lubbers'.

United Nations High  
Commissioner for Refugees