

Statement by Mr. Jingree on the Report of the Secretary-General on
the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
- 30 July 2002

We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Steiner, for his comprehensive briefing this morning. We also thank Deputy Prime Minister Ivić for his useful statement.

Mauritius is encouraged to see the general positive development taking place in Kosovo. The formation of the provisional institutions of self-government, with full representation from all ethnic communities, shows the determination of all communities to work together in the best interest of the Kosovo population. We note with satisfaction that minority communities are also being represented in functional committees, in line with the Constitutional Framework. We have also noted that the concerns of the minority communities are often not taken into account by the Assembly. We call on the Kosovo Assembly to be more open to representation from minority communities and to ensure that future decisions of the Assembly enjoy the full support of all members.

Likewise, we have noted the encroachment on UNMIK responsibilities by the Kosovo Assembly, something that warranted the Special Representative's intervention and subsequent action by the Security Council. We call on the Kosovo Assembly to concentrate on the competences entrusted to it and to follow the guidelines established recently by UNMIK regarding the distribution of responsibilities between the provisional institutions of the self-government and UNMIK. Trust and confidence should be the underlining principles of the relations between UNMIK and the provisional institutions of self-government.

We were pleased to hear from Mr. Steiner that preparations for the October municipal elections in Kosovo are on track. We hope to see full participation of minority communities in those elections. My delegation notes with satisfaction the various steps taken by UNMIK in the preparation of the municipal elections. Of particular importance is the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the institution

building pillar of UNMIK, with, respectively, the Commissariat for Refugees of Serbia and the Montenegrin authorities, aimed at encouraging Kosovo citizens and those who have taken refuge in those areas to vote during those elections. In this context, the contribution of political leaders is also significant. We call on them to positively influence the participation of all minority communities.

On the issue of return of minority communities in the homeland of Kosovo, we welcome the various steps taken by the Kosovo Government to integrate all minority communities in its provisional institutions. We encourage the Government to facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. We also encourage UNMIK to continue its various projects aimed at supporting minority returns throughout the province.

The abolition of visas by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for holders of UNMIK travel documents will indeed be a significant boost to the freedom of movement and will contribute to mutual confidence-building across borders. UNMIK should continue to help Kosovo normalize its relations with its neighbours in this respect.

We believe that two important issues still need serious attention in order to bring long-lasting and sustainable peace to Kosovo.

First, the need for Kosovo to be able to get financial and economic support to develop its capacity in the various sectors of Government administration and police. Secondly, the need to combat organized crime, transport of terrorism and smuggling, which have not yet been totally curbed. In this respect, we call on neighbouring countries to collaborate with the provisional institutions of self-government and UNMIK in order to address this issue.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the Special Representative and his team for the good work being carried out in fulfilling their mandate in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999).