

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan

The Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan (KSIP) sets out the actions and policies to reach the standards set out in the document “Standards for Kosovo” published in Pristina on 10 December 2003 and subsequently endorsed by the UN Security Council in its statement of 12 December. The “Standards for Kosovo”, and in particular its introduction, establish the legal foundation and guiding principles for this implementation plan.

The “Standards for Kosovo” describe a Kosovo where public institutions are representative and democratic, where the rule of law is effective, respected and accessible to all, where those IDP’s who wish to be free and able to return to Kosovo without hindrance, threat or intimidation, where all individuals, regardless of ethnic background, can travel and work safely, and use their languages (and where that use is respected) anywhere and in any institution of Kosovo, where the framework for a functioning market economy is in place and where the Kosovo Protection Corps operates strictly within its mandate; furthermore, the standards describe a Kosovo where Pristina is participating in successful dialogue with Belgrade and where Kosovo is in stable and peaceful relationships with its regional neighbours. In short, a truly multi-ethnic, stable and democratic Kosovo which is approaching European standards. In this regard, the standards process is in harmony with Kosovo’s parallel European Union Stabilisation and Association Process Tracking Mechanism (STM). These processes are mutually reinforcing.

The “Standards for Kosovo” document describes this objective in detail. The “Standards for Kosovo” remains the target for Kosovo. Progress against this target will be the basis for any review in mid-2005 to begin consideration of Kosovo’s final status.

Achievement of the standards also requires co-operation from the government of Serbia and Montenegro in Belgrade. We urge their constructive engagement in a process designed to protect and promote the interests of all communities in Kosovo.

Structure of the KSIP

The Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan (KSIP) describes actions to be undertaken by the PISG and other institutions to achieve the standards. UNMIK’s actions, in most elements of the Plan, are in support of the PISG. In some cases,

in particular for areas of reserved competence (such as the Rule of Law), UNMIK bears the primary responsibility for action since it bears legal and functional responsibility for these standards. In some cases, actions are to be jointly undertaken by the PISG and UNMIK, but, in all respects, achievement of the standards requires cooperation and collaboration of the PISG and UNMIK.

The KSIP sets out in detail *what* actions are designed to meet the standards (“Action”), *who* is responsible for undertaking that action (“Responsible Actor”), *who* will support the principal actor (“Supported by”) and *when* the action is planned to take place (“Timeline”).

In each section of the KSIP, the introductions set out in detail the strategy and priorities to reach the standards in that area.

Immediate Priorities

In the light of the violence of 17-20 March 2004, the immediate priority is the establishment of the rule of law, prosecution of perpetrators and public respect for law and order. This is the responsibility of all the people of Kosovo. In addition, there must be rapid steps, primarily undertaken by the PISG, to rebuild damaged and destroyed property and actively to facilitate the return of those displaced from their homes. There need to be steps taken, led by political leaders, to begin to effect reconciliation between the communities.

In the longer run, it remains vital that there be progress in all areas of the standards. But within them, there are some key priorities.

It is essential that Kosovo’s institutions, including the institutions of government, the Assembly and municipal-level bodies make more progress in allowing the full participation of all communities and in producing and implementing policies that fully protect the rights and reflect the needs of all communities. Political parties, particularly in an election year, bear the same responsibility. The participation of all communities, and policies and actions to facilitate such participation, is central to the standards process.

Meanwhile, there will be a greater effort to examine new institutional arrangements to allow more effective local government, accountable to local communities, and to integrate parallel structures into Kosovo’s institutions. Both goals will be taken forward in discussion with leaders of all communities in Kosovo, with the overall aim to produce institutional arrangements that are acceptable and effective for all and which thus help lay sound foundations for

Kosovo's future. The dismantling of parallel structures will also require the cooperation of the government of Serbia and Montenegro.

An effective rule of law requires above all that every member of every community in Kosovo is able to live, work and travel in a peaceful and secure environment. Recent events have demonstrated how far there is to go in attaining this goal. Such an environment requires not only an effective and professional police service and judiciary but above all the active cooperation of every inhabitant of Kosovo. There must be coordinated action to enforce and protect property rights and end illegal occupation of property.

The standard of freedom of movement is also some way from being met. It is the responsibility of the PISG to institute policies that enable members of every community to travel, live and work freely anywhere in Kosovo. These policies are now being examined, and may be revised, to ensure that they can effectively meet this target. Likewise, it remains a standard that all those IDP's who wish to do so should be helped to return to their homes. This requires action from the PISG at central and municipal level, supported by UNMIK, and the support of all communities in Kosovo and their leaders.

There must be more dynamic action to energise Kosovo's economy. This requires that there is a clear legal framework, responsible management of the budget and transparent economic policy-making. There needs to be more rapid progress in privatisation. All these actions will facilitate investment – both internal and external - and job-creation.

Review of the KSIP

The KSIP will be reviewed in future months and revised as actions are fulfilled and new ones are identified. In particular, the section on returns and freedom of movement will be thoroughly reviewed in the light of recent events, in order to ensure that planned actions can effectively fulfill these essential standards. The purpose of future revisions will be to ensure that actions contained in the plan effect maximum progress towards the standards as set out in "Standards for Kosovo".

Assessment

Assessment of the progress of the PISG and Kosovo as a whole against the standards will be performed on a quarterly basis by the United Nations, in consultation with other key international partners (such as the Contact Group and

European Union), and will be reported to the Security Council by the UN Secretary-General.

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