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UN Mission in Nepal is acting within its mandate

Question: In Nepal, the acting Prime Minister, as well as others, have been very critical of UNMIN (United Nations Mission in Nepal) for, they say, interfering in the statute-writing plan and communicating in ways outside of what they call normal diplomatic channels. Is the Secretariat aware of this? And does it acknowledge that issues exist? And what is it going to do to change or to try to assuage the Nepalese authorities?

Associate Spokesperson: On this, the UN Mission in Nepal is acting clearly within its mandate and consistently with calls by the Security Council for the parties to take advantage of the UN Mission in Nepal's expertise and readiness to support the peace process, in order to facilitate the completion of its tasks. The issue dealt with in the non-paper containing the timeline, which is the issue I believe that you're referring to, is based on consultations by UNMIN, which has been consulting with the main parties in Nepal for some time, and those consultations have taken place with the full knowledge of the Government of Nepal. This is not something new. The ideas it has shared with the parties are part of that discussion and are intended to facilitate advance thinking and planning of the implementation of integration and rehabilitation of former Maoist combatants once political decisions are made by the parties. The completion of UNMIN's arms monitoring mandate, in large part, is contingent on the parties agreeing on a plan to address the future of the Maoist army personnel.