

VERIFICATION IN IRAQ PURSUANT TO UNSC RESOLUTIONS

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

To provide credible assurance to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that Iraq is complying with the provisions of UNSC Resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions, through the implementation of a system of verification able to detect, in a timely manner, prohibited equipment, materials and activities.

In 2001, extrabudgetary programme expenditures amounted to \$2 503 745.

KEY ISSUES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the end of 1998, in spite of the adoption of Resolution 1284 (1999) which confirms its mandate in Iraq, the Agency has not been in a position to implement its UNSC mandated activities in Iraq. It could not, therefore, provide any assurance that Iraq was in compliance with its obligations under these resolutions.

OPERATIONS

During 2001, the Agency was unable to implement its inspection programme as mandated by the relevant UNSC resolutions. However, its Action Team has maintained its readiness to resume monitoring activities in Iraq.

Regular contact has been maintained by the Action Team with the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

(UNMOVIC) since the latter's establishment in order to co-ordinate efforts as required under UNSC Resolution 1284 (1999). These contacts have included exchanges on such topics as the definition of the logistical support to be provided by UNMOVIC to the Agency, the co-ordination of resources for the resumption of inspection activities, database and communication requirements to facilitate operations and the implementation of export-import monitoring.

With the support of several Member States, the Action Team co-ordinated field trials of air particulate sampling in order to evaluate the capabilities of such environmental monitoring for the detection of clandestine activities under various operational conditions. Technical conclusions are expected during 2002.

ANALYSIS

Activities were focused on the improvement of computer based inspection and analytical tools as well as on the detailed analysis of information accumulated from previous field activities and on recent information such as that provided by commercially available satellite imagery. These analytical activities have confirmed the validity of the Agency's technically coherent picture of Iraq's past clandestine nuclear programme and nuclear related capabilities as of December 1998.

The Action Team revised the list of items and technologies to which the export-import mechanism, approved by UNSC Resolution 1051 (1996), apply.