INTRODUCTORY NOTE

THE REQUEST

1. On 8 October 2008, the General Assembly, at its sixty-third session, adopted resolution 63/3 by a recorded vote of 77 in favour to 6 against with 74 abstentions. The full text of the resolution containing the request reads:

The General Assembly,
Mindful of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,
Bearing in mind its functions and powers under the Charter of the United Nations,
Recalling that on 17 February 2008 the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo declared independence from Serbia,
Aware that this act has been received with varied reactions by the Members of the United Nations as to its compatibility with the existing international legal order,
Decides, in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations to request the International Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court to render an advisory opinion on the following question:

“Is the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo in accordance with international law?”

FRAMEWORK OF THE DOSSIER

2. The Dossier, prepared pursuant to the Order of the President of the International Court of Justice of 17 October 2008 and paragraph 2 of Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, contains the documents and other material of the United Nations as well as international instruments likely to throw light upon the question on which the advisory opinion of the Court is requested. The documents are numbered consecutively and identified by title and, where appropriate, by official United Nations symbol.

3. The Dossier is divided into three Parts. Part I contains background material relating to the request by the General Assembly for an advisory opinion. Part II contains material relating to the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the administration of Kosovo and the future status process. Part III contains material on general questions of international law of relevance to the question before the Court.

4. The approach taken to the preparation of the Dossier is “comprehensive but relevant” The Dossier is meant to give an overview of all aspects of UNMIK’s administration of Kosovo through a selection of UN and other documents. With the exception of Section C of Part II, which includes all Secretary-General’s reports on
UNMIK, all other Sections include a selective choice of documents prefaced by an explanatory paragraph. The “beginning date” of Part II of the Dossier is set at March 1998, which is the starting point for the UN’s engagement in Kosovo. The end date varies. For events in Kosovo, with the exception of one Regulation, the “end date” is February 2008 – the date of the unilateral declaration of independence. For other UN documents, it ends in November 2008 with the latest Secretary-General’s report.

PART I: MATERIAL RELATING TO THE REQUEST BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION

5. In a letter dated 15 August 2008 to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations transmitted a request from the Republic of Serbia for the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled “Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law”; an explanatory memorandum was attached to the request (A/63/195 of 22 August 2008). [Dossier No. 1]

6. On 17 September 2008, the General Committee issued its first report on the “Organization of the sixty-third regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items”, recommending the inclusion in the draft agenda of the item requested by Serbia (A/63/250 of 17 September 2008). [Dossier No. 2]

7. At the second plenary meeting of its sixty-third session held on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee for inclusion of the item in the agenda of the sixty-third session under heading F. “Promotion of justice and international law”, and allocated it to the Plenary (A/63/PV.2). [Dossier No. 3]

8. Under agenda item 71 of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, Serbia submitted draft resolution A/63/L.2 dated 23 September 2008 on the “Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law” (A/63/L.2 of 23 September 2008). [Dossier No. 4]


10. At the 22nd plenary meeting of its sixty-third session held on 8 October 2008, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution submitted by Serbia by a recorded vote of 77 in favour to 6 against, with 74 abstentions (A/63/PV.22). [Dossier No. 6]
11. General Assembly resolution 63/3, “Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law” (A/RES/63/3 of 8 October 2008). [Dossier No. 7]

PART II: MATERIAL RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNMIK AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF KOSOVO

A. UN engagement in Kosovo prior to the establishment of UNMIK


30. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/1999/5 of 29 January 1999). [Dossier No. 25]


34. This Section contains background material leading to the adoption on 10 June 1999 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and related documents referenced in the resolution.

35. Letter dated 6 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council attaching a Statement of the Chairman of the meeting of the G-8 Foreign Ministers on the general principles on the political solution to the Kosovo crisis (S/1999/516 of 6 May 1999). [Dossier No. 29]


37. Letter dated 7 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council attaching the Agreement on the principles (peace plan) to move towards a resolution of the Kosovo crisis presented to the leadership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari, representing the European Union, and Viktor Chernomyrdin, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation (S/1999/649 of 7 June 1999). [Dossier No. 31]


39. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-fourth year, 4011th meeting, Thursday, 10 June 1999, 12:15 p.m. (S/PV.4011 and S/PV.4011 (Resumption 1)). [Dossier No. 33]

C. Reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, Presidential Statements and official communications from Member States

41. This Section contains, in chronological order, reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), Statements by the President of the Security Council and official communications from Member States. The Secretary-General’s reports, issued on a quarterly basis, provide a detailed description of the full breadth of UNMIK’s activities, the structure of the Mission, its powers and competencies, concept of operation and the relationship between UNMIK and the international organizations that played a lead role in UNMIK’s four Pillars, namely the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The reports provide regular updates on, and assessments of, the security, political, economic, and humanitarian situation, as well as on capacity and institution-building, in particular, the establishment of a Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government for Kosovo, the establishment and functioning of Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo (PISG) and other administrative structures established pursuant to the Constitutional Framework, transfer of competencies to the PISG, municipal and Kosovo-wide elections, dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade and technical assessments on the implementation of the “Standards for Kosovo”. For a number of years, UNMIK Regulations were annexed to Secretary-General’s reports for the information of the Security Council. These annexes are not included in this Section. Relevant UNMIK Regulations, however, are included in Section F below.


43. Letter dated 17 June 1999 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/1999/689 of 17 June 1999). [Dossier No. 36]


49. Letter dated 14 April 2000 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2000/320 of 17 April 2000). [Dossier No. 42]


55. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2001/8 of 16 March 2001). [Dossier No. 48]


59. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2001/27 of 5 October 2001). [Dossier No. 52]


63. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2002/16 of 24 May 2002). [Dossier No. 56]


68. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2003/1 of 6 February 2003). [Dossier No. 61]


72. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2003/26 of 12 December 2003). [Dossier No. 65]


75. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2004/13 of 30 April 2004). [Dossier No. 68]


78. Letter dated 17 November 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/932 of 30 November 2004). [Dossier No. 71]


92. Letter dated 4 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/7 of 7 January 2008). [Dossier No. 85]


98. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2008/44 of 26 November 2008). [Dossier No. 91]

D. Security Council provisional verbatim records

99. This Section contains, in chronological order, verbatim records of meetings of the Security Council on the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on UNMIK and on developments in Kosovo in general. They reflect the views of members of the Security Council on various aspects of the UN Administration in Kosovo.

100. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-fifth year, 4138th meeting, Thursday, 11 May 2000, 10.50 a.m. (S/PV.4138). [Dossier No. 92]

101. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-fifth year, 4153rd meeting, Friday, 9 June 2000, 10.30 a.m. (S/PV.4153). [Dossier No. 93]

102. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-fifth year, 4200th meeting, Wednesday, 27th September 2000, 3 p.m. (S/PV.4200). [Dossier No. 94]

103. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-fifth year, 4225th meeting, Thursday, 16 November 2000, 10.45 a.m. (S/PV.4225). [Dossier No. 95]

104. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-sixth year, 4258th meeting, Thursday, 18 January 2001, 10 a.m. (S/PV.4258). [Dossier No. 96]

105. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-sixth year, 4298th meeting, Friday, 16 March 2001, 6.40 p.m. (S/PV.4298). [Dossier No. 97]

106. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-sixth year, 4331st meeting, Tuesday, 19 June 2001, 4 p.m. (S/PV.4331). [Dossier No. 98]
107. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-sixth year, 4335th meeting, Friday, 22 June 2001, 10 a.m. (S/PV.4335). [Dossier No. 99]

108. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-sixth year, 4387th meeting, Friday, 5 October 2001, 10.35 a.m. (S/PV.4387). [Dossier No. 100]


111. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-seventh year, 4518th meeting, Wednesday, 24 April 2002, 10.40 a.m. (S/PV.4518). [Dossier No. 103]

112. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-seventh year, 4559th meeting, Wednesday, 26 June 2002, 10.30 a.m. (S/PV.4559). [Dossier No. 104]

113. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-seventh year, 4592nd meeting, Tuesday, 30 July 2002, 10.30 a.m. (S/PV.4592). [Dossier No. 105]

114. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-eighth year, 4702nd meeting, Thursday, 6 February 2003, 10 a.m. (S/PV.4702). [Dossier No. 106]

115. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, fifty-eighth year, 4742nd meeting, Wednesday, 23 April 2003, 10.30 a.m. (S/PV.4742). [Dossier No. 107]


117. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixtieth year, 5188th meeting, Friday, 27 May 2005, 10 a.m. (S/PV.5188). [Dossier No. 109]

118. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixtieth year, 5289th meeting, Monday, 24 October 2005, 10 a.m. (S/PV.5289). [Dossier No. 110]

119. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixty-first year, 5373rd meeting, Tuesday, 14 February 2006, 11.25 a.m. (S/PV.5373). [Dossier No. 111]

120. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixty-first year, 5588th meeting, Wednesday, 13 December 2006, 3 p.m. (S/PV.5588). [Dossier No. 112]

121. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixty-second year, 5672nd meeting, Wednesday, 2 May 2007, 12.10 p.m. (S/PV.5672). [Dossier No. 113]
122. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixty-second year, 5673rd meeting, Thursday, 10 May 2007, 10 a.m. (S/PV.5673). [Dossier No. 114]


128. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixty-third year, 5850th meeting, Tuesday, 11 March 2008, 3 p.m. (S/PV.5850). [Dossier No. 120]

129. Letter dated 17 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/401 of 17 June 2008). [Dossier No. 121]

130. Security Council, provisional verbatim record, sixty-third year, 5917th meeting, Friday, 20 June 2008, 10 a.m. (S/PV.5917). [Dossier No. 122]


E. KFOR Reports

133. This Section contains a selection of reports from 1999 and from 2008 submitted on a monthly basis by the international security presence (KFOR) on its operations in Kosovo pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). These reports provide a representative description of the activities of KFOR in Kosovo.

134. Letter dated 17 June 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/692 of 17 June 1999). [Dossier No. 125]
135. Letter dated 8 July 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/767 of 8 July 1999). [Dossier No. 126]

136. Letter dated 10 August 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/868 of 10 August 1999). [Dossier No. 127]

137. Letter dated 15 September 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/982 of 15 September 1999). [Dossier No. 128]

138. Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1062 of 15 October 1999). [Dossier No. 129]

139. Letter dated 18 November 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1185 of 18 November 1999). [Dossier No. 130]

140. Letter dated 17 December 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1266 of 20 December 1999). [Dossier No. 131]

141. Letter dated 8 February 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/89 of 11 February 2008). [Dossier No. 132]

142. Letter dated 26 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/204 of 26 March 2008). [Dossier No. 133]

143. Letter dated 16 May 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/331 of 16 May 2008). [Dossier No. 134]

144. Letter dated 3 June 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/362 of 4 June 2008). [Dossier No. 135]


146. Letter dated 10 September 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/600 of 12 September 2008). [Dossier No. 137]

F. UNMIK Regulations

147. This Section contains a selection of Regulations promulgated by UNMIK from 1999 to date, which form part of the applicable law in Kosovo. It includes Regulations pertaining to the legal framework of UNMIK’s Administration, its powers and competencies, institution-building and the gradual transfer of authority from UNMIK to
local institutions in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). At a later stage of the UN Administration, where the competence to legislate in many fields was transferred to the Assembly of Kosovo, legislative acts of the latter were promulgated by the SRSG with the necessary modifications.


149. Regulation No. 1999/8 On the Establishment of the Kosovo Protection Corps (UNMIK/REG/1999/8 of 20 September 1999) [Dossier No. 141]


166. Regulation No. 2002/12 On the Establishment of the Kosovo Trust Agency (UNMIK/REG/2002/12 of 13 June 2002). [Dossier No. 161]


G. International agreements concluded by UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo and other documents

173. This Section includes a selection of international agreements, bilateral and multilateral, concluded by UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo, a Note Verbale from the UN Office of Legal Affairs explaining the treaty making power of UNMIK (limited to the extent necessary for the administration of the territory) and related official communications from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and later, the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro, to the United Nations, to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. They provide a representative example of the powers exercised by UNMIK pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) in external relations. Also included are an Agreement on the delineation of the boundary between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and related documents.


175. Memorandum of Understanding between UNMIK and the Federal Republic of Germany signed in Berlin on 17 November 1999 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 169]

176. Memorandum of Understanding between UNMIK and Switzerland signed in Pristina on 6 April 2000 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 170]

177. UNMIK-FRY Common Document, Belgrade, 5 November 2001 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 171]
178. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2001/34 of 9 November 2001). [Dossier No. 172]


183. Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2001/7 of 12 March 2001). [Dossier No. 177]


185. “Determination” by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the “resolution on the protection of the territorial integrity of Kosovo” of 23 May 2002. [Dossier No. 179]


187. Letter dated 3 June 2002 from the Secretary-General to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 181]


H. Actions by Kosovo institutions

190. This Section includes documents concerning attempts by Kosovo political institutions to declare independence in 2002 and 2003 as well as the declaration of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo on 17 February 2008. Also included are documents concerning the actions taken by UNMIK and Serbia in this regard.

191. Letter dated 22 May 2002 from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the President of the Assembly of Kosovo (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 184]

192. Letter dated 6 November 2002 from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the President of the Assembly of Kosovo; Resolution of the Assembly of Kosovo of 7 November 2002, “Pronouncement” by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of 7 November 2002 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier Nos. 185, 186, 187]

193. Declaration on Kosova – A Sovereign and Independent State, draft declaration by the Assembly of Kosova, 3 February 2003 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 188]

194. Letter dated 7 February 2003 from the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the President of the Assembly of Kosovo (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 189]

195. Common Declaration, Kosovo Assembly, 13 February 2003 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 190]

196. Declaration on Kosovo and Metohia by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, 27 August 2003 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 191]

197. Kosova Declaration of Independence by the Assembly of Kosovo, 17 February 2008 (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 192]
I. Future status process

198. This Section contains United Nations documents concerning the political developments in the future status process for Kosovo. It includes the letters of appointment of Kai Eide as the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy to conduct a comprehensive review of the situation in Kosovo, and subsequently, of Martti Ahtisaari as his Special Envoy to lead the future status process for Kosovo, and the reports they produced. It also includes communications by Serbia to the United Nations on the process, the report of the Security Council mission on the Kosovo issue, as well as the report of the European Union/United States/Russian Federation Troika on Kosovo.

199. Letter dated 7 October 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council attaching the report of his Special Envoy, Kai Eide, on “A comprehensive review of the situation in Kosovo” (S/2005/635 of 7 October 2005). [Dossier No. 193]

200. Letter dated 4 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council attaching the “Declaration on the Adoption of the Plan for the Political Solution to the Current Situation in Kosovo and Metohija adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia on 29 April 2004 (S/2004/352 of 4 May 2004). [Dossier No. 194]


202. Letter dated 31 October from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council on the appointment of Martti Ahtisaari as his Special Envoy to lead the future status process for Kosovo and of Albert Rohan as his deputy (S/2005/708 of 10 November 2005). [Dossier No. 196]

203. Letter dated 10 November 2005 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General welcoming the Secretary-General’s intention to appoint Martti Ahtisaari and Albert Rohan with attached Guiding principles of the Contact Group for a settlement of the status of Kosovo (S/2005/709 of 10 November 2005). [Dossier No. 197]

204. Letter of Appointment dated 14 November 2005 from the Secretary-General to Martti Ahtisaari with attached Terms of Reference (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 198]

205. Special Representative of the Secretary-General’s Statement on the resolution passed by the Assembly of Kosovo, UNMIK Press Release (UNMIK/PR/1445 of 17 November 2005). [Dossier No. 199]
206. Resolution adopted on 17 November 2005 by the Assembly of Kosovo “On Reconfirmation of Political will of Kosova People for Kosova an Independent and Sovereign State” (on file with the UN Office of Legal Affairs). [Dossier No. 200]


PART III: MATERIAL RELATING TO GENERAL QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW PERTINENT TO THE REQUEST

216. Part III contains material relating to general questions of international law, including the right of peoples to self-determination, secession, and the principle of States’ sovereignty and territorial integrity, in general, and in the context of the former Yugoslavia, in particular. This Part includes international law instruments, both universal and regional, General Assembly resolutions and relevant “General Comments/Recommendations” of the Human Rights treaty bodies (the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)), whose interpretation of the Conventions is considered authoritative. Relevant judicial decisions of international or national courts are not included in the Dossier as they are within the judicial knowledge of the Court.

217. This Part does not include General Assembly resolutions adopted with regard to specific non-self governing territories throughout the era of decolonization. Excluded also are all General Assembly resolutions adopted annually under the agenda item “Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights” (the first of which was resolution 2649 (XXV) of 30 November 1970, and the last was resolution 49/151 of 23 December 1994), as well as resolutions adopted, as of the 36th Session of the General Assembly, under the agenda item “Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination (the first of which was resolution 36/10 of 28 October 1981, and the latest was resolution 63/429 of 18 December 2008). The General Assembly adopted resolutions under both agenda items at its 36th to 49th Sessions. The resolutions under both agenda items are focused exclusively on the situation of colonial, foreign and alien domination, aggression and occupation, the rights of indigenous people and the use of mercenaries.

218. Secretary-General’s reports submitted pursuant to these resolutions under both agenda items are also not included in the Dossier. For the most part, they include (i) information received from Governments in response to the Secretary-General’s request; and (ii) summaries of the relevant sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (Human Rights Council) under the agenda item on the right of peoples to self-determination and discussions on specific issues, i.e., the “situations in occupied Palestine”, “question of Western Sahara”, or the “use of mercenaries”. The first Secretary-General’s report on the right of peoples to self-determination was submitted to the 27th Session of the General Assembly (A/8775) and the latest report was submitted to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly (A/63/254 of 8 August 2008).

A. General international law instruments – universal and regional


B. General Assembly resolutions

232. Section B of Part III contains relevant General Assembly resolutions of a general nature addressing in different contexts, aspects of the question of self-determination and territorial integrity of States.


234. General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, “Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples”. [Dossier No. 224]

235. General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 (Annex), “Principles which should guide Members in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter”. [Dossier No. 225]


C. Regional instruments in the context of the former Yugoslavia


