



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 April 2002

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 124
Pattern of conferences

Status of recruitment for the Interpretation Section at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

Report of the Secretary-General*

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with section IV, paragraph 9, of General Assembly resolution 56/242 of 24 December 2001, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to fill expeditiously the remaining vacancies in the Interpretation Section at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and to report thereon to the Assembly at its resumed fifty-sixth session.
2. As of the date of the present report, the Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish Units are fully staffed; two of the three posts in the English Unit have been filled while the four posts in the Arabic Unit are still vacant. The four vacant posts in the Arabic Unit will be filled by August 2002 and the last post in the English Unit will be filled by September 2002.
3. Once the Arabic and English Units are fully operational, all the language units of the Interpretation Section will be staffed with Nairobi-based staff members. For want of such staff, short-term freelancers have so far been recruited for specific meetings, in order to provide services in all the languages required in each case. While this practice can be maintained, it should be possible to discontinue it in the near future if warranted.

* The date of submission of the present document has been determined by the need to provide the most updated and complete information possible.