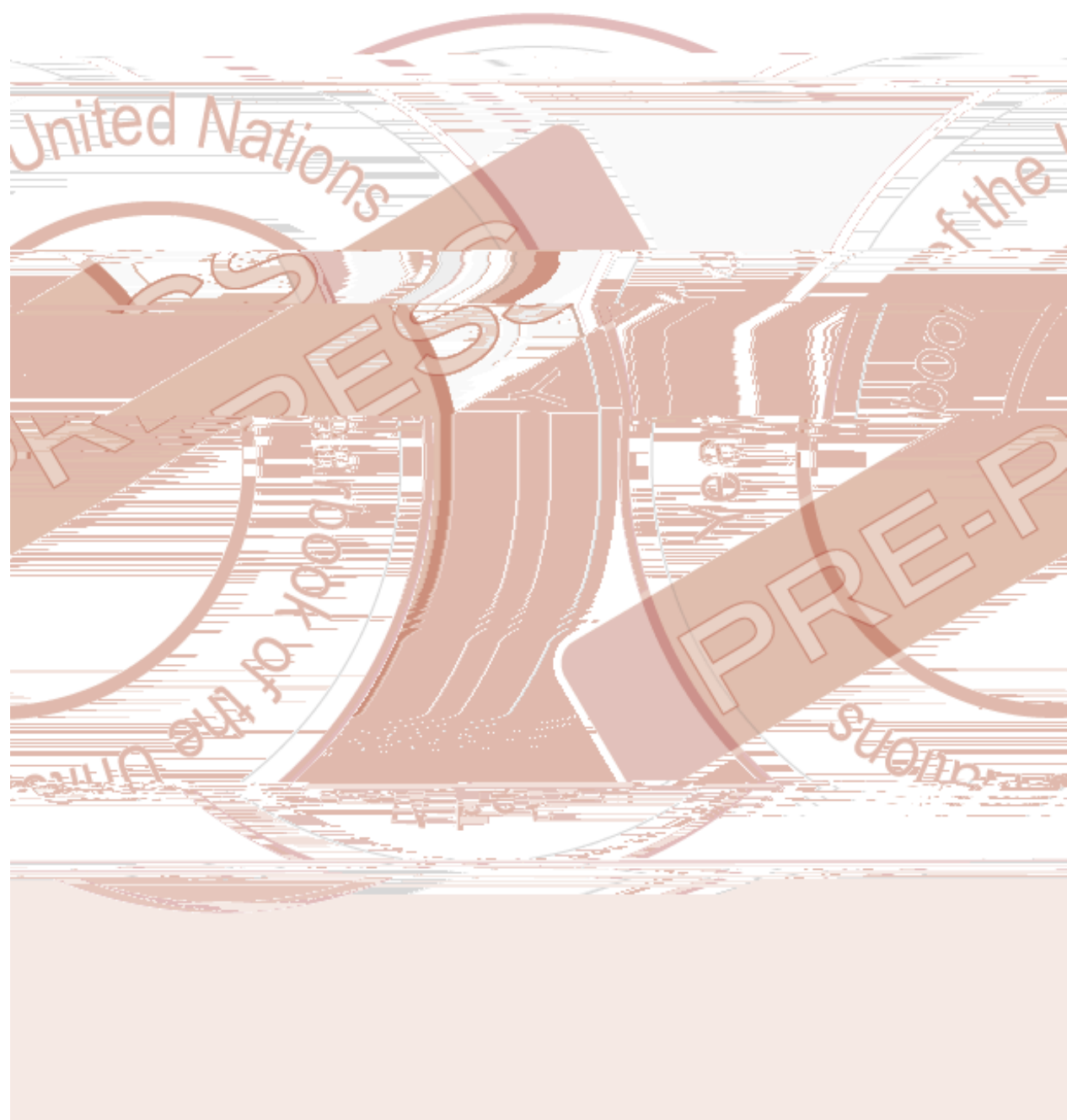


United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General  
on the work of the Organization

PRE-P



# Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

*Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization [A/71/1], dated 5 July 2016, submitted to the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. The Assembly took note of it on 5 October 2016 (decision 71/505).*

## Chapter I

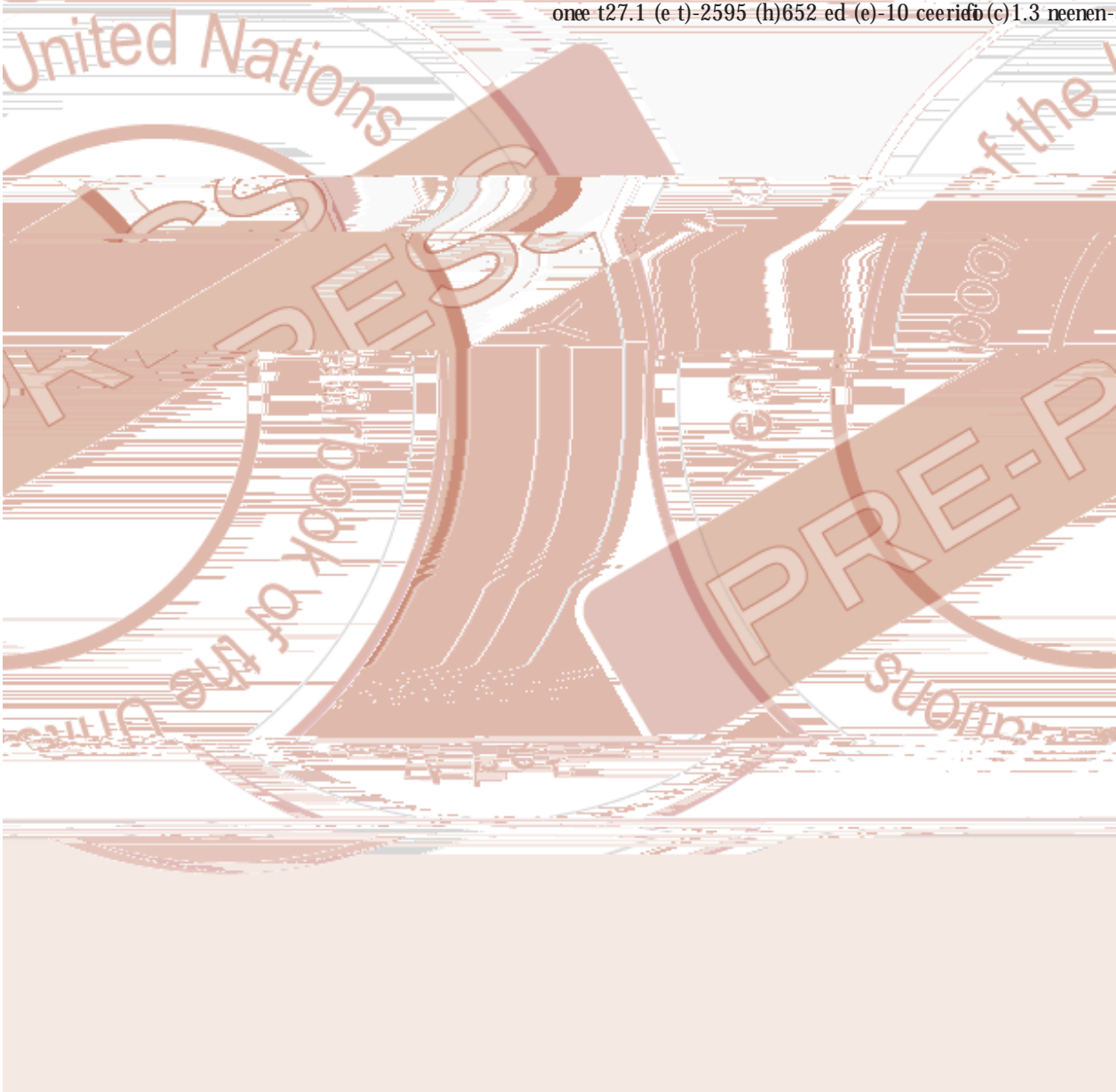
### Introduction

1. As I submit my tenth and final annual report to the Member States on the work of the Organization, I recall the opening lines of my very first annual report, in which I observed that Member States and the peoples of the world were asking the United Nations to do more — in more spheres of activity, in more locations, in more challenging circum-

8. In the area of peace and security, I made conflict prevention a priority throughout my time in office, beginning with strengthening United Nations capacity in mediation and preventive diplomacy.

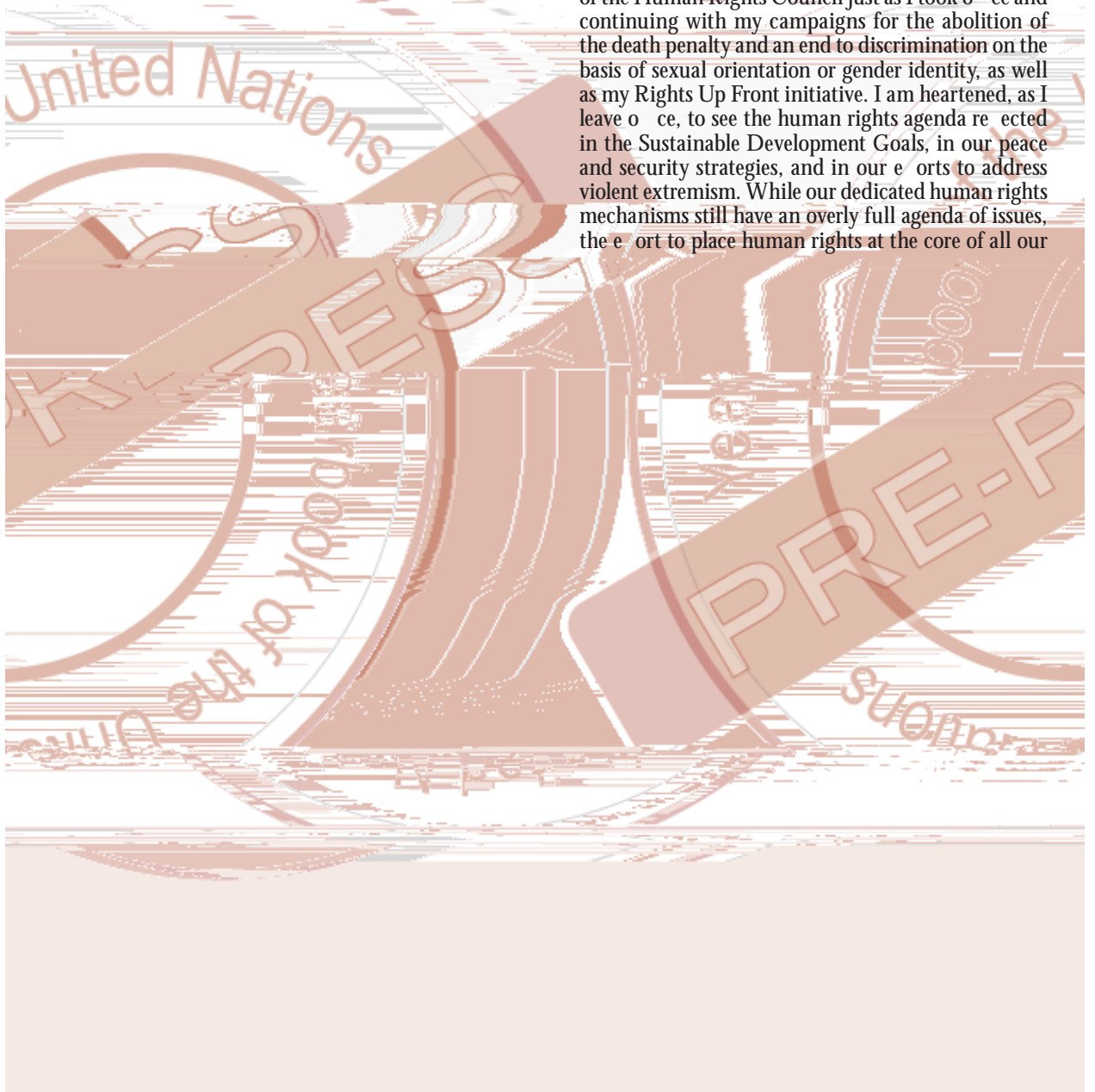
The proof of these reforms has been in the heightened demand throughout the decade and across the globe from Member States and regional partners for preventive diplomacy, mediation and mediation support from the United Nations. In 2016 alone, my envoys continue the painstaking work of diplomacy on the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Myanmar, and the Central African Republic.

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highest level of forced displacement since the founding of this Organization. My advocacy for a more global, accountable and robust humanitarian system culminated in 2016 with the World Humanitarian Summit. The effort continues at the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants to be held in September in New York. My overarching message is for global solidarity in response to the needs of our fellow human beings.

This is a theme that I have tried to strike since the outset in advocating for the prioritization of human rights, beginning with support for the establishment of the Human Rights Council just as I took office and continuing with my campaigns for the abolition of the death penalty and an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as my Rights Up Front initiative. I am heartened, as I leave office, to see the human rights agenda reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, in our peace and security strategies, and in our efforts to address violent extremism. While our dedicated human rights mechanisms still have an overly full agenda of issues, the effort to place human rights at the core of all our

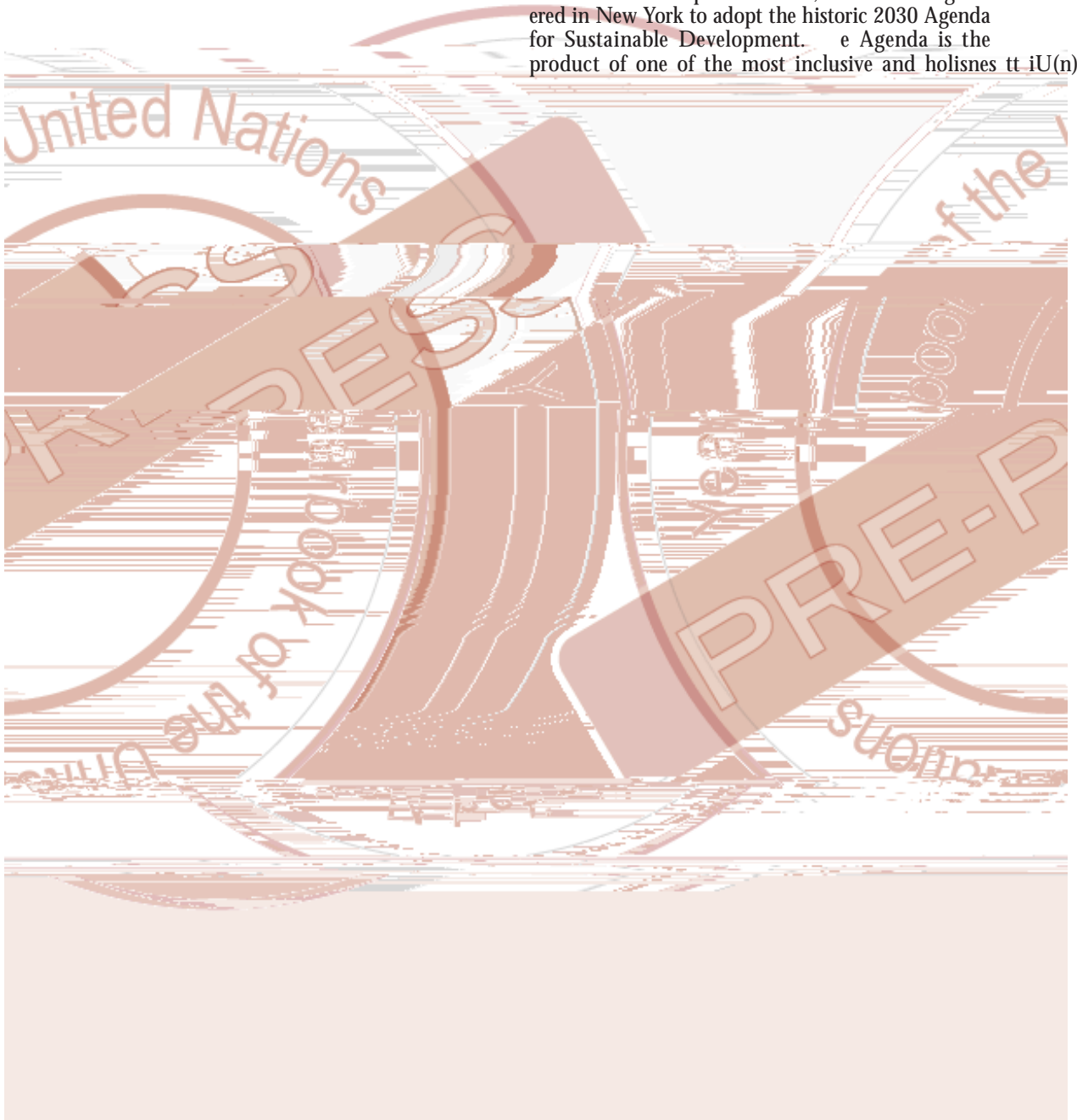


growing polarization and crises, a new era for sustainable development was needed. The experiences and evidence from the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals demonstrated that we know what to do, but also indicated a need for deeper approaches that can tackle root causes and do more to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

**1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

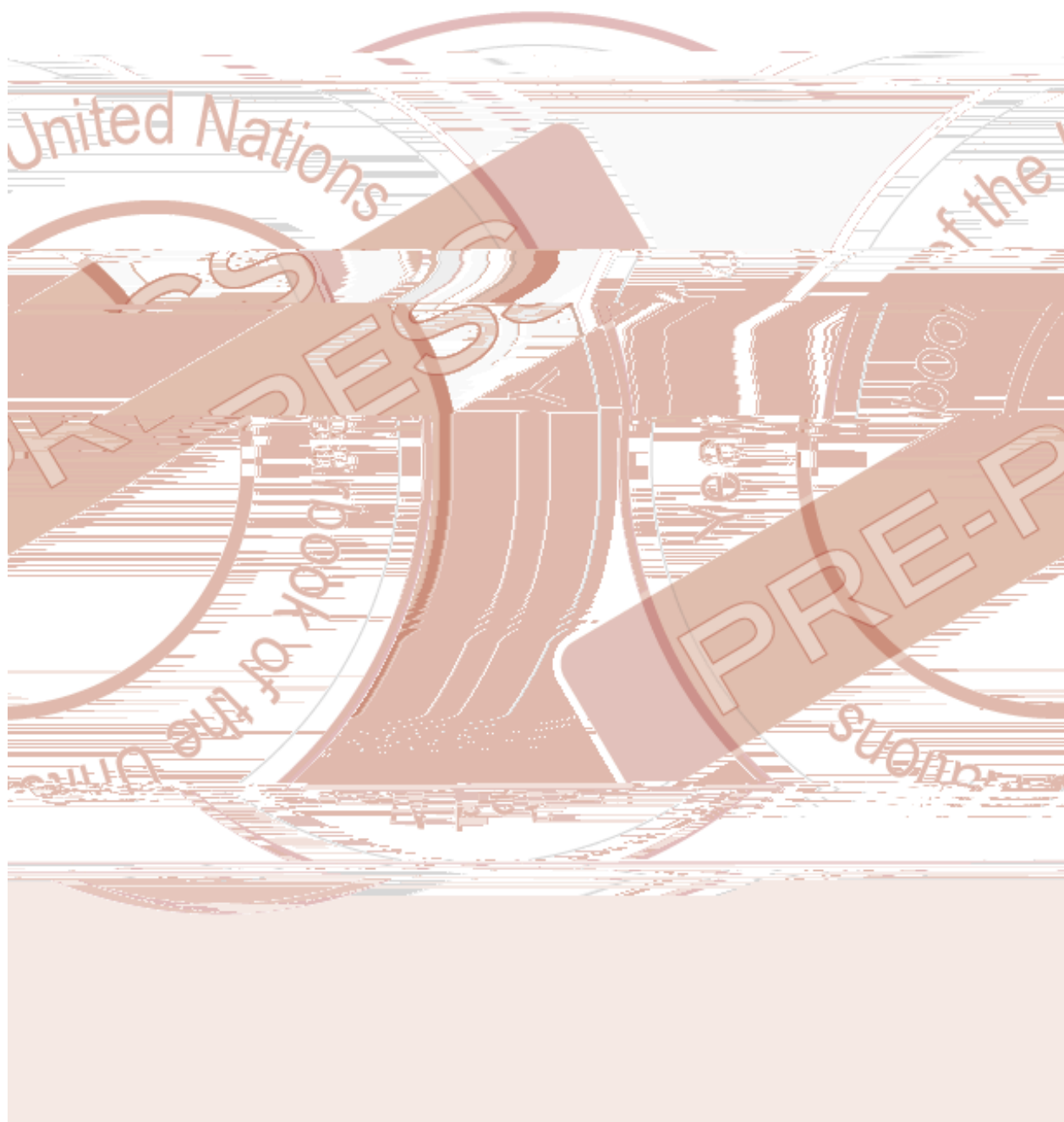
20. On 25 September 2015, world leaders gathered in New York to adopt the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda is the product of one of the most inclusive and holistic

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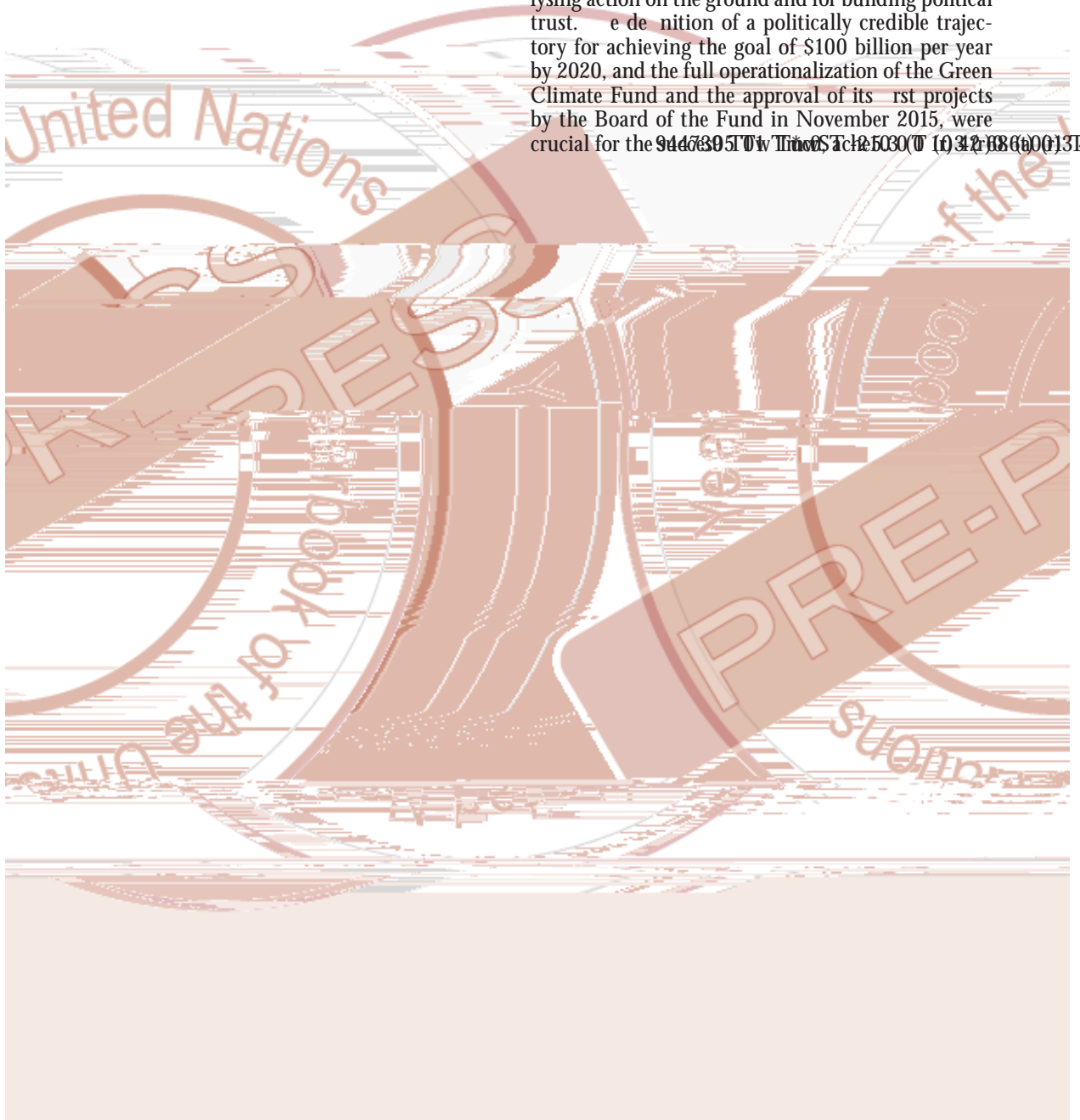


and ownership are critical, these countries depend on global partnerships for financial resources, policy advice and technical assistance. The Istanbul Programme of Action, the political declaration adopted at the midterm review of the Programme of Action, the Vienna Programme of Action and the Samoa Pathway are compacts that address the challenges and opportunities of these groups of countries. These dedicated programmes of action complement the



provides a solid foundation for the climate-resilient transformation of the global economy in a manner that is sensitive to human rights and gender equality.

32. Now it is critical to translate commitment into action. This transformation will help to secure a future that is safer, healthier and more prosperous for all. Action at every level, from the local to the global, must accelerate. We have no time to waste, and much to gain, by moving quickly down a lower-carbon pathway. Climate finance is critical for catalysing action on the ground and for building political trust. The definition of a politically credible trajectory for achieving the goal of \$100 billion per year by 2020, and the full operationalization of the Green Climate Fund and the approval of its first projects by the Board of the Fund in November 2015, were crucial for the





of services in protracted crises in remote locations and reaching the marginalized.

### 1. Conflict prevention and mediation

39. The first and clearest priority, an unambiguous lesson of the reporting period, is that conflict prevention and mediation need to be brought back to the centre of all United Nations engagements. Conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen as well as the crisis in Burundi demonstrate the need for more, not fewer, of these activities. The large movements of refugees and migrants around the world also underscored the need to address the root causes of these movements and the conflicts that prompt them. It was also the central appeal of the three important peace and security reviews conducted in 2015 — on peace operations, on peacebuilding and on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Prevention is a responsibility under the Charter, one that must be shared by the United Nations, Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, and civil society.

40. I continued to offer my good offices and to undertake conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy

45. I also continued strengthening our relationship with the World Bank. The joint financing initiative with the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank announced in October 2015 in Lima is supporting countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Lebanon and Jordan, which are bearing a disproportionate responsibility in hosting refugees from conflict, especially from the Syrian Arab Republic. Given the full range of challenges faced by these host countries, there is a clear conflict prevention dimension to this innovative approach. Finally, I launched a policy discussion in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on integrating conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts into the Organization's broader work to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Many of these efforts, however, were undertaken without meaningful regular budget resources. I regret that, during the reporting period, my case for bringing to an end the unsustainable reliance on extrabudgetary resources for vital prevention and mediation work did not meet more favour with Member States. I will continue to make the case at every opportunity.

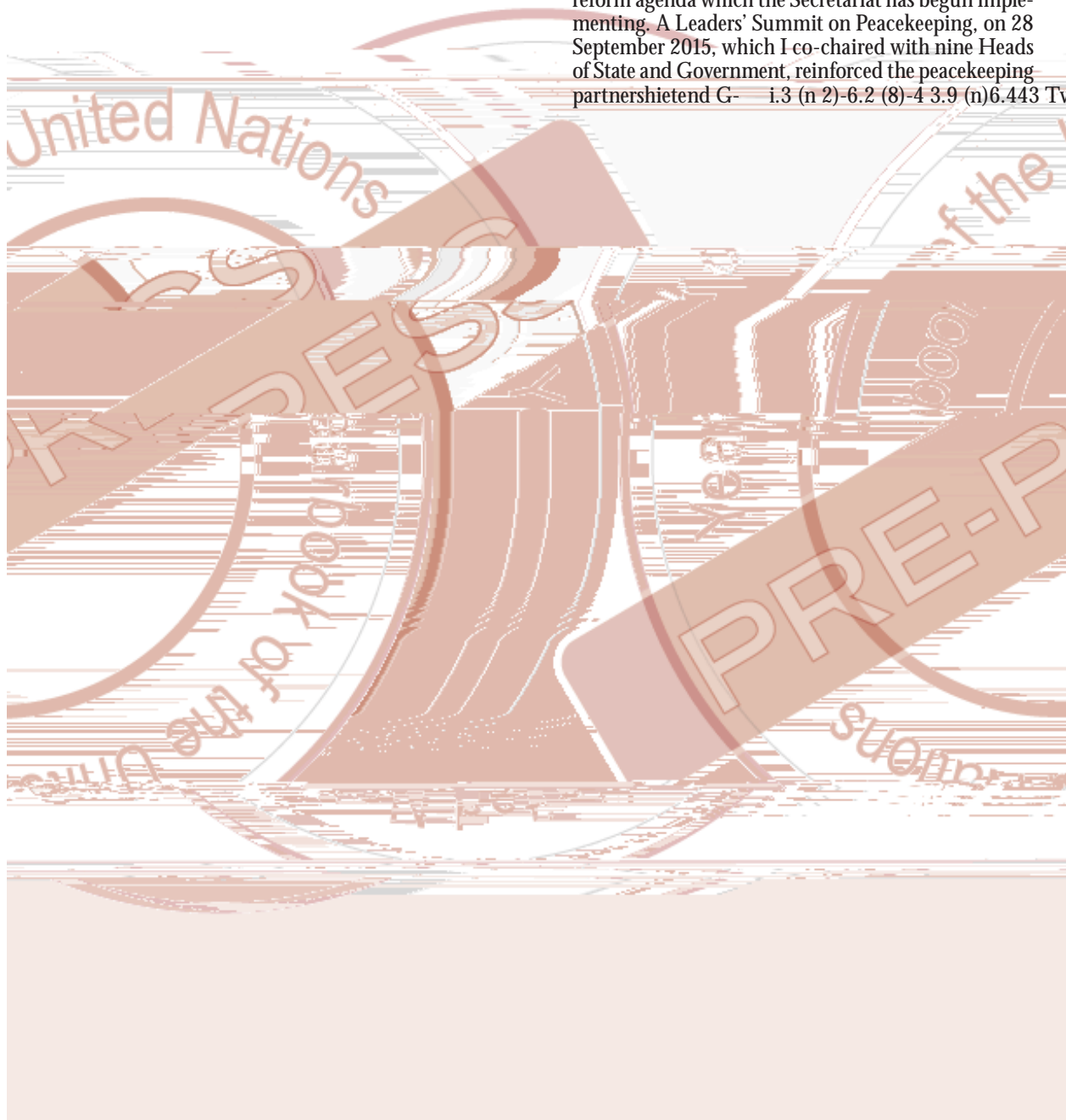
## 2. Peace operations

46. The deployment of United Nations peace operations remained at its highest level in history during this reporting period. With nearly 125,000 uniformed and civilian personnel from more than 100 Member States deployed in 16 peacekeeping missions, and over 3,600 civilian staff working in 37 special political missions, the United Nations continued to make a tangible contribution to peace and security in many parts of the world.

47. A number of countries hosting peacekeeping missions saw progress over the past year: the successful elections in Côte d'Ivoire confirmed that the country was moving firmly towards lasting peace and ready to conclude the peacekeeping phase of the United Nations engagement; a peace agreement signed in Mali sets out a new vision for

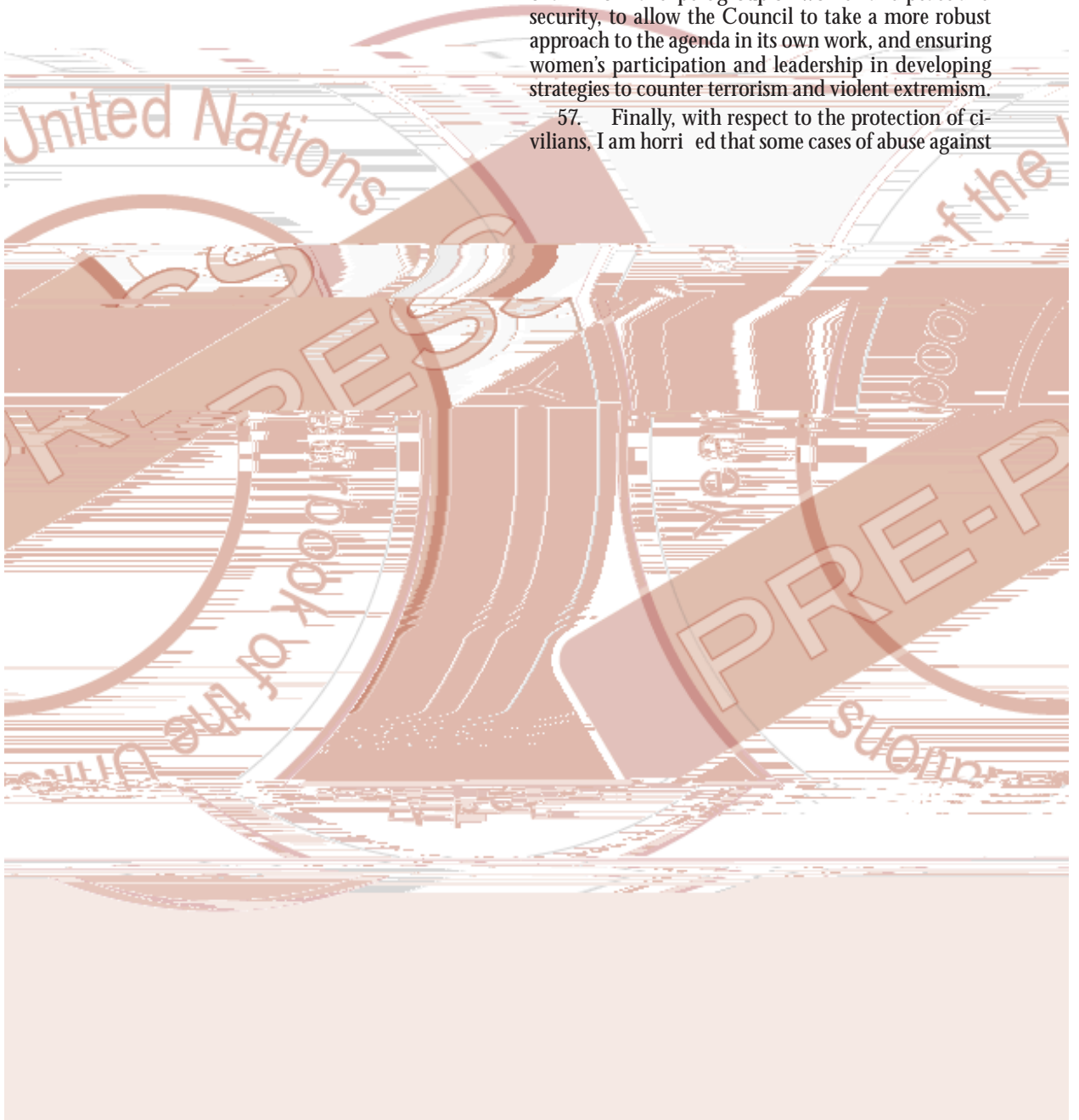
consideration in mission planning processes, and there are plans to introduce a system for monitoring and managing operational performance in this area across missions.

51. In order to better respond to the spread, intensity and evolving nature of conflict, I established a High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, whose report, released in June 2015, forged a new vision for peace operations. My response, issued in September 2015, set an ambitious but critically important reform agenda which the Secretariat has begun implementing. A Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping, on 28 September 2015, which I co-chaired with nine Heads of State and Government, reinforced the peacekeeping partnership and G- i.3 (n 2)-6.2 (8)-4 3.9 (n)6.443 Tw T5.8



of sustainable peace. All three reviews recognized the centrality of the women and peace and security agenda for the United Nations work. Several recommendations are being implemented, including new initiatives aimed at building gender analysis capacity in peace operations, boosting women's representation in peacekeeping, and tracking and scaling-up funding for initiatives related to women and peace and security. Many were reflected in Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), including the establishment of an informal expert group on women and peace and security, to allow the Council to take a more robust approach to the agenda in its own work, and ensuring women's participation and leadership in developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

57. Finally, with respect to the protection of civilians, I am horrified that some cases of abuse against



in countries such as the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, the Niger and Somalia. Also in 2015, for the first time, the Fund successfully met my target by allocating 15.7 per cent to initiatives that focused principally on gender equality and women's empowerment. I directed the Fund to support the United Nations renewed engagement in Sri Lanka to help the new Government to build trust and confidence among the people on its reconciliation and accountability/transitional justice agenda. Unfortunately, the Fund had its third weakest year since initial pledges in 2006, receiving \$53.5 million in contributions from donors. As a result, it will not be able to reach its annual allocation target of \$100 million in 2016 without additional donor contributions. This reality means that we are missing critical opportunities to ensure strategic coherence and enable politically risky but necessary endeavours. It also exposes the gap between norms and reality in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. Closing that gap is not just desirable, it is a matter of life and death for millions.

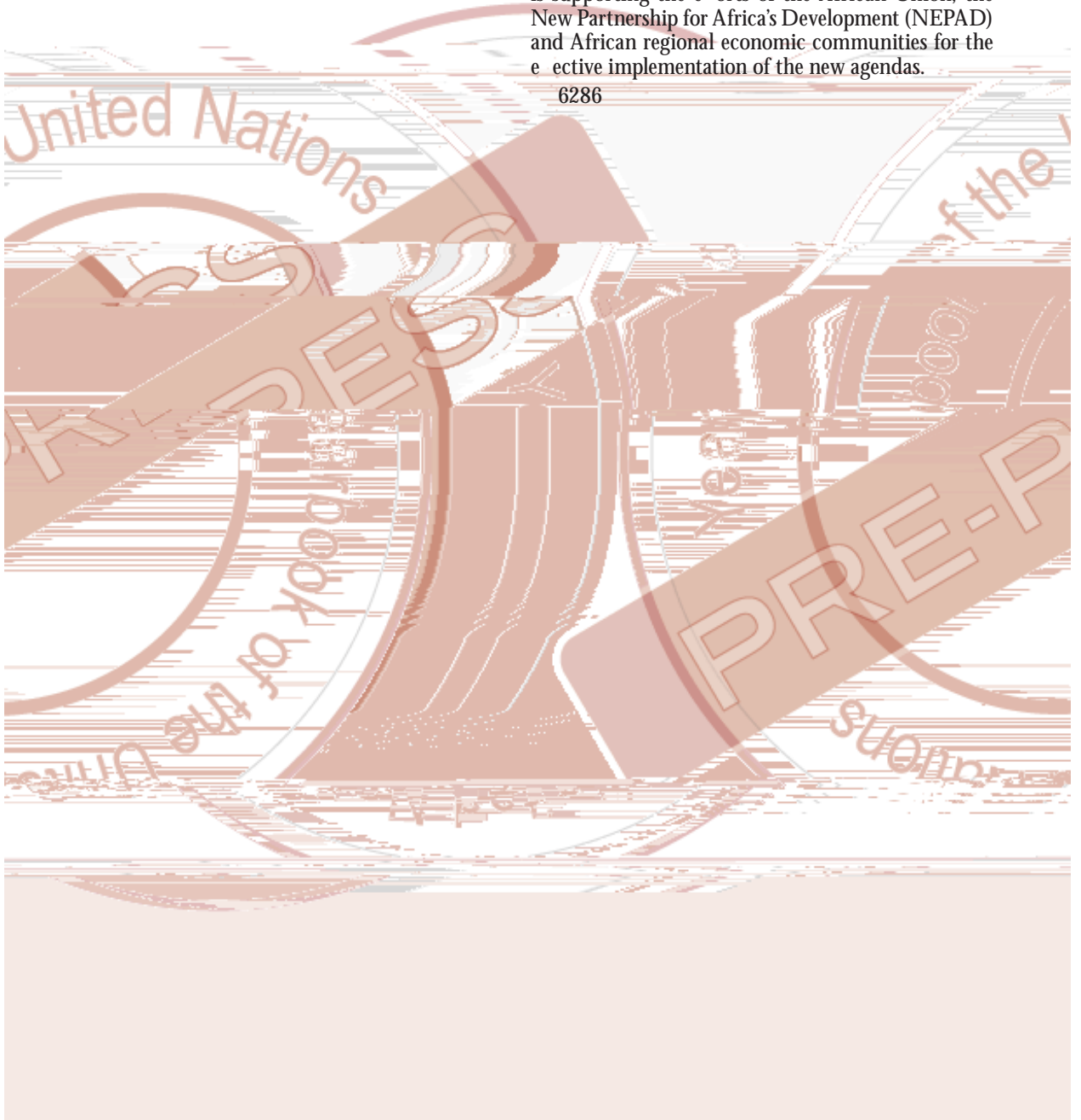
#### 6. Democratic transitions and elections

63. Providing electoral support to Member States continued to be a priority. In 2015, the Fund's support continued to be a priority. In 2015, the Fund's support continued to be a priority. In 2015, the Fund's support continued to be a priority.



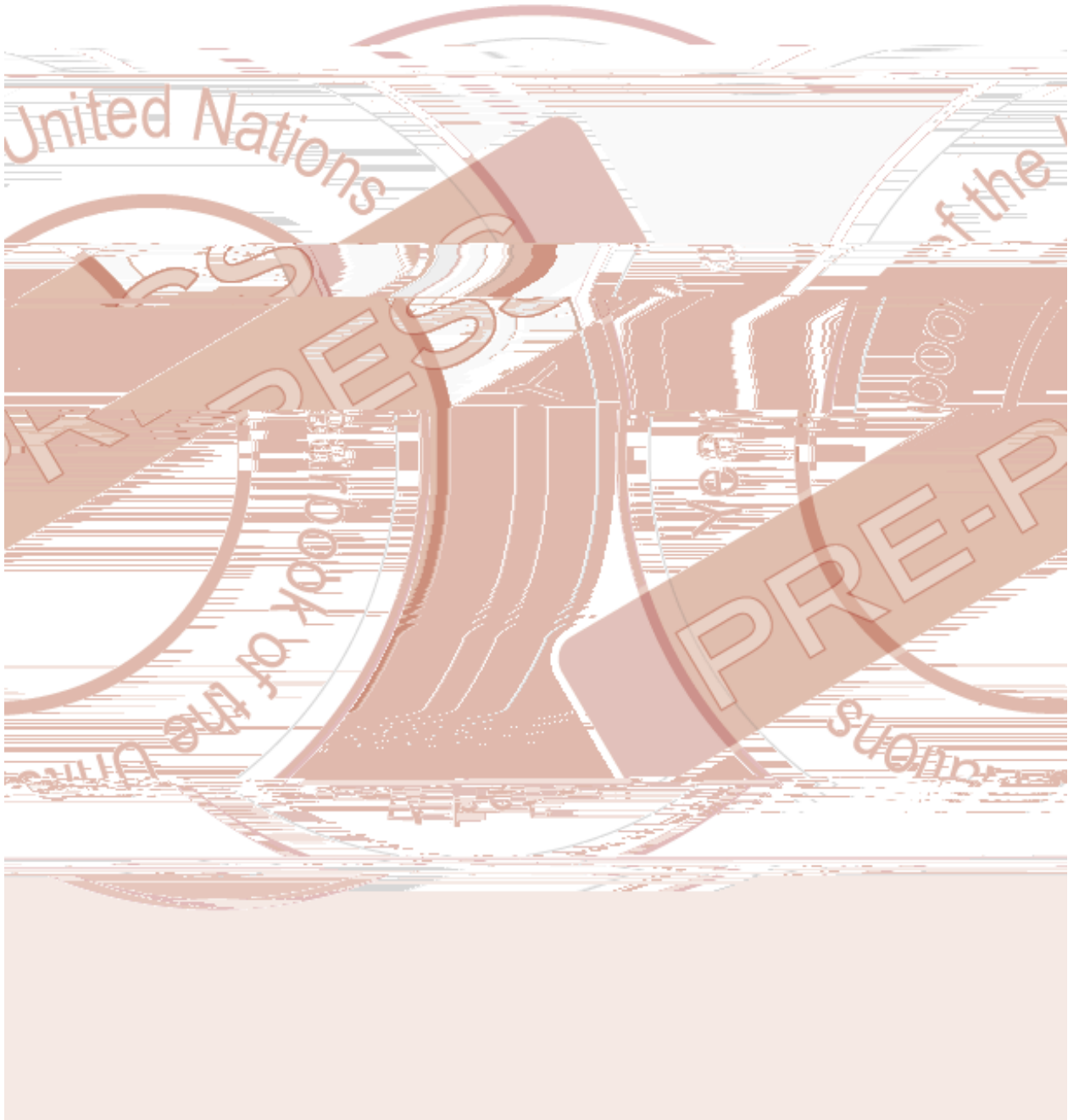
will require coherence and complementarity between global, continental, regional, national and local efforts. The continent has embarked on the first ten-year implementation plan for the African Union Agenda 2063. The Agenda's people-centred approach promises to enhance inclusive economic and social progress and its emphasis on agriculture development, infrastructure development and industrialization provides critical drivers for job creation and poverty eradication. The United Nations system is supporting the efforts of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and African regional economic communities for the effective implementation of the new agendas.

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to keep human rights concerns front and centre of



d'Ivoire on a regular basis. The universal periodic review maintained full participation in the course of its second cycle. The Council's independent special procedures mandate holders increased in number, new mandates being established concerning albinism and the right to privacy. Mandate holders conducted 76 country visits in 2015. The human rights treaty bodies benefited significantly from the additional meeting time endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/268, resulting in the review of 173 State party reports; the adoption of views and decisions on over 160 individual communications; eight country visits by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and national-level activities in more than 40 countries.

80. The General Assembly, at its seventieth session, adopted 48 human rights-related resolutions, 30 of which were adopted without a vote. I regret that a number of resolutions traditionally adopted by consensus were voted upon at that session, including those on the rights of the child; strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections; and human rights defenders, while other resolutions traditionally enjoying widespread support required unprecedented levels of political compromise of A18.3 (re)75 (o)7.4 (l)13.3-0.004 T2

## F. Promotion of justice and international law

88. This reporting period saw the first completion by an ad hoc tribunal of its mandate, with the delivery of the *Butare* appeal judgment by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Security Council acknowledged the Tribunal's achievements, including its contribution to the process of national reconciliation and the restoration and maintenance of peace. The closure of the Tribunal for Rwanda does not signify impunity for those whose cases were not heard by the Tribunal. Indeed, one of the fugitives (Ladislav Ntaganzwa) was arrested in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and transferred to Rwanda in March for trial. Meanwhile, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia concluded the trials of Radovan Karadžić and Vojislav Šešelj. Mr. Karadžić was convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes while Mr. Šešelj was acquitted of all charges. At the close of the reporting period, the Tribunal remained seized of two appeals and two trials of senior political and military figures. The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals continues the jurisdiction and essential functions of the Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

89. There were important developments also at the International Criminal Court. The Court concluded the trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, who was convicted and sentenced to 18 years in prison for crimes against humanity and war crimes (murder, rape and pillaging) in the Central African Republic. Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi, who faces charges of war crimes for intentionally directing attacks against historic monuments and buildings dedicated to religion in Timbuktu, Mali, expressed his intention to plead guilty to the charges. This is the first case to be exclusively focused on the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against cultural property.

90. At the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia proceedings are ongoing in all three chambers. Sd(-)T30xin6 (e)-1.8 (n).2 (0i)5.5 (c)-2

### G. Disarmament

95. The elimination of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction remains a central but elusive objective of the United Nations. Despite commitments from Member States, there has been limited progress on this long-standing goal. For nuclear weapons, this is largely due to growing tensions between nuclear-armed States and sclerotic disarmament machinery. I am deeply disappointed that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is not yet in force 20 years after it was negotiated and that a missile material treaty has not been negotiated. The fourth nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in January 2016 and its ballistic missile launches remain a source of serious international concern.

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between the First and Fourth Committees of the General Assembly.

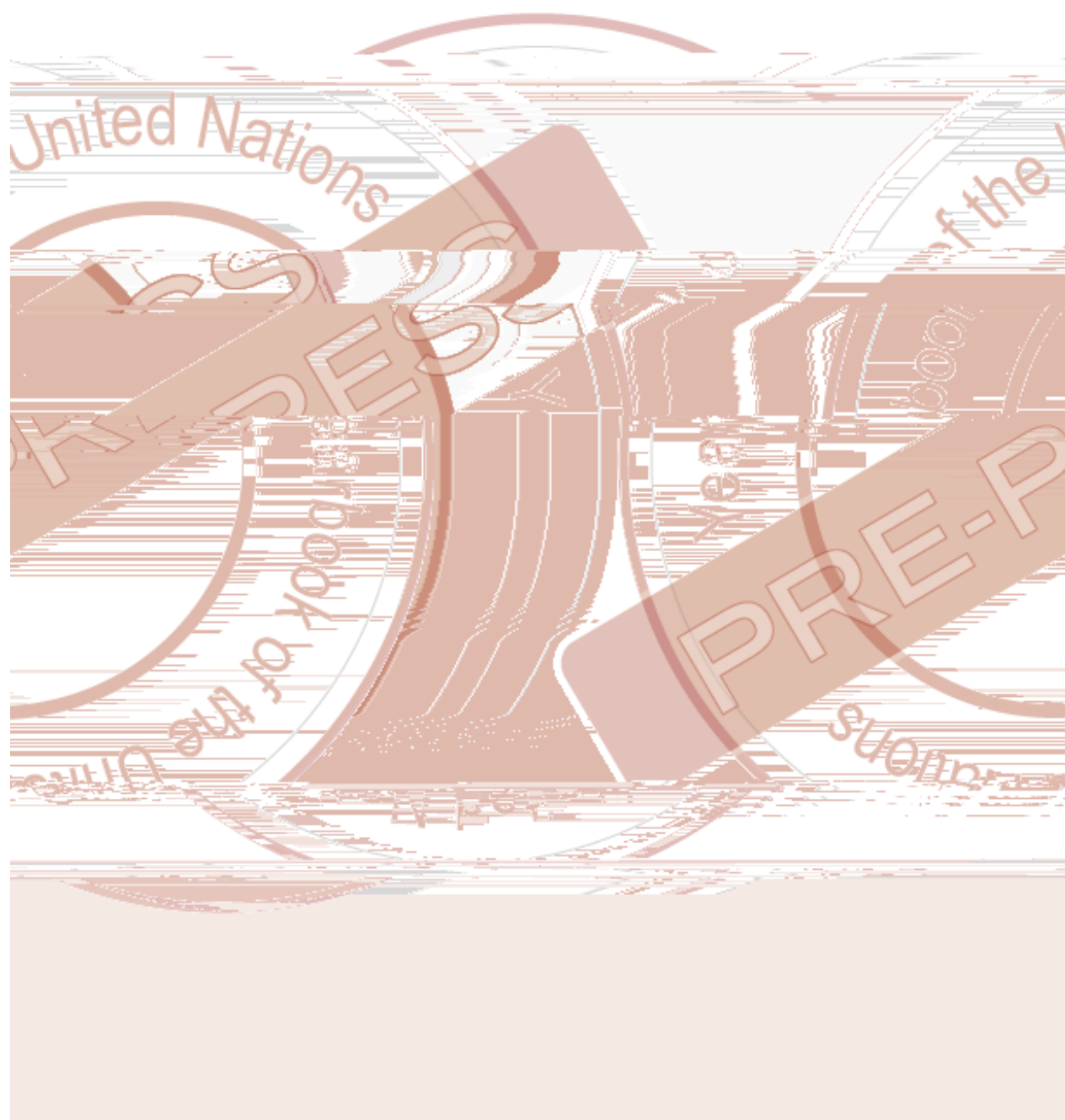
105. I remain particularly concerned by the growing nexus between terrorism and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security. The Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in 2016 endorsed a United Nations Action Plan, focused on two relevant United Nations instruments: Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The United Nations can play a key role in advancing this issue, including by engaging all Member States.

106. I am pleased to note that the United Nations has provided capacity-building assistance to Member States upon request to, inter alia, improve the control of small arms and light weapons and promote the effective implementation of both Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the Arms Trade Treaty. Outreach to civil society has been intensified. We also commemorated the seventieth anniversary of the first General Assembly resolution, which established the goal of eliminating atomic weapons.

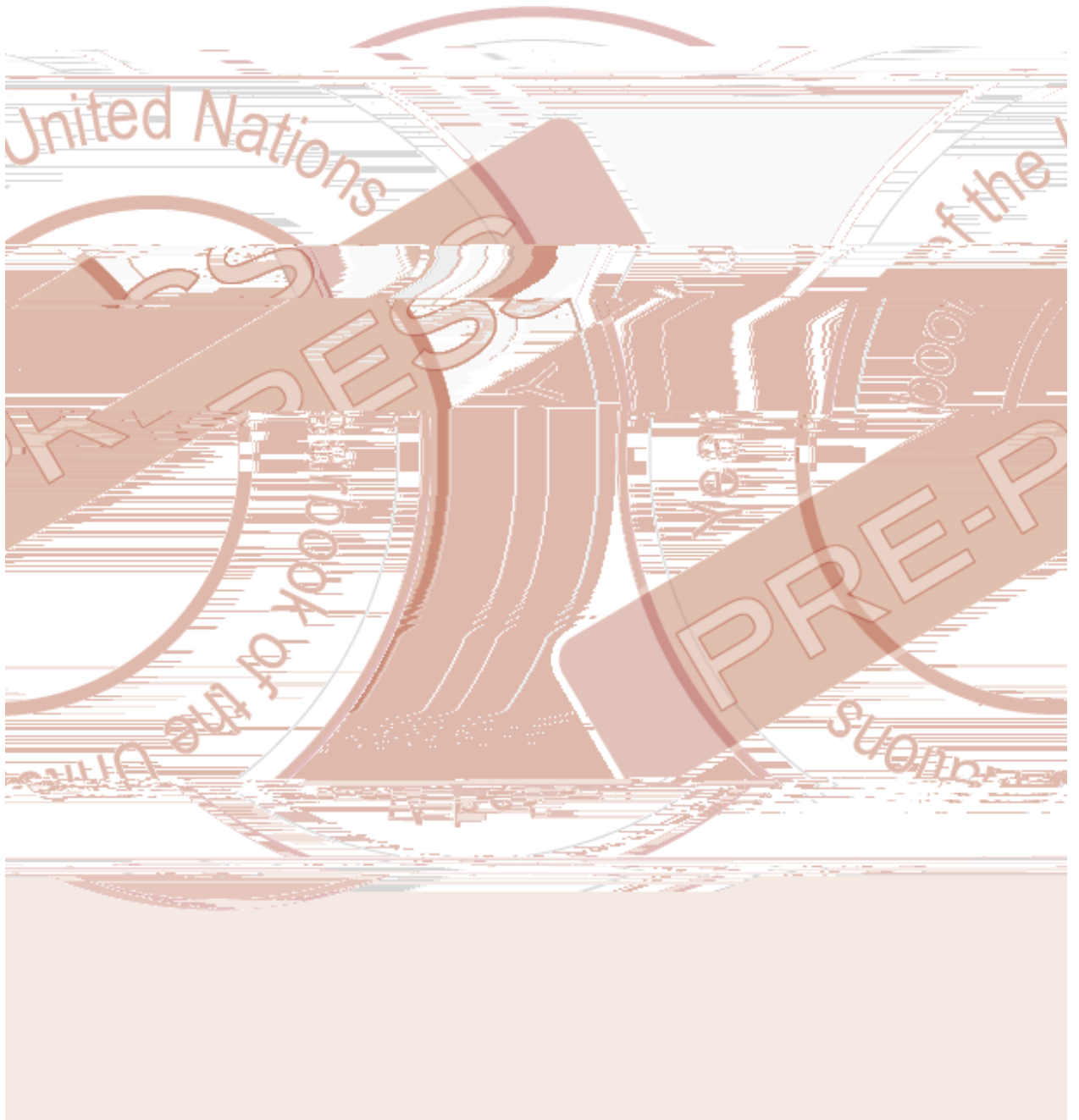
#### **H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations**

107. Confronting transnational threats, organized crime, terrorism, violent extremism and -15.7 (m)82288









practices and advancing United Nations goals. A ma-

