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# Press Release

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United Nations Mission in Kosovo

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## **SRSG's statement following Troika-facilitated talks in New York**

PRISTINA – *Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) Joachim Rücker made the following statement today:*

Following the direct talks in New York yesterday between the Belgrade and Pristina negotiating teams, I am encouraged that a conclusion to Kosovo's status process can be reached soon.

On the eve of this first round of direct talks under the Troika-led negotiations, Contact Group Ministers stated that an early resolution of Kosovo's status is crucial to the stability and security of the region and Europe as a whole. The Ministers reiterated their endorsement of the Secretary-General's assessment that the status quo is unsustainable and damaging for Kosovo's political, social and economic development.

It is also very significant that the Ministers stated that any settlement needs to be acceptable to the people of Kosovo.

The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the efforts of UNMIK and KFOR to contribute towards a multi-ethnic, peaceful and democratic society. I wish to reassure all people of Kosovo that these efforts will continue.

I welcome the Troika's statement yesterday that the face-to-face negotiations were held in a cooperative atmosphere and I welcome the "New York Declaration" of the two parties reiterating their commitment to engage seriously until the end of the process on 10 December 2007.

In this context, it is very important that the parties also reaffirmed their commitment to avoid provocations and refrain from any activities or statements that might jeopardize the security situation.

It is too early to say what the final outcome of negotiations will be. However, it is significant that the Contact Group reaffirmed its Guiding Principles: that there be no partition of Kosovo, no union with another state, no return to the pre-1999 status, and that any settlement needs to be acceptable to the people of Kosovo.