



Security Council

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Letter dated 20 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of March 2005, under the presidency of Brazil (see annex).

The assessment was prepared under our responsibility following consultations with the other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ronaldo Mota **Sardenberg**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Brazil (March 2005)

Introduction

The Security Council undertook a very active programme of work during the month of March 2005, under the presidency of Brazil. A total of 26 formal meetings and 19 consultations of the whole were held in this period. The result of this intensive work was reflected in the adoption of nine resolutions, including five on the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, and also on the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the situation in Somalia, the situation in Afghanistan and the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Furthermore, the Security Council issued five presidential statements: on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the situation in Somalia, the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, the situation in Burundi and the situation in Guinea-Bissau. A wrap-up session on the work of the Security Council was held on 30 March, so as to discuss the African dimension in the work of the Security Council.

Africa

Burundi

On 14 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Carolyn McAskie, briefed the Security Council on developments in that country since November 2004, as well as on recent activities of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). Ms. McAskie informed that events in Burundi had been positive and encouraging, in particular the referendum for the adoption of the Constitution that took place on 28 February 2005. She emphasized, however, the need for international support for the country's development, particularly in the post-transition period, when peace, reconciliation and democracy must be consolidated. International assistance for humanitarian programmes was also needed with a view to respond to the needs of thousands of refugees who were returning to the country. The Special Representative flagged the issue of the root causes of the Burundian conflict and advanced the Secretary-General's intention to make recommendations to help to address them in his next report.

In a formal meeting on that same day, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/13) welcoming the decision by the Burundian people to approve the post-transitional Constitution, through the referendum of 28 February 2005.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 24 March, the Security Council met with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B.

The Security Council met on 28 March to hear a briefing by Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad of South Africa in his capacity as assistant facilitator of President Thabo Mbeki in his mediation efforts for peace, on behalf of the African Union. Advocate Mojanku Gumbi, President Mbeki's Legal Adviser, was also present. The Principal Deputy Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, Alan Doss, introduced the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI (S/2005/186). Members expressed concern for the absence of the rule of law, in particular the proliferation of militias, and recalled the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1572 (2004), while condemning continuing violations of human rights. The need to break the political impasse and proceed with the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the organization of elections in October 2005 were also major concerns expressed by the Council. Members emphasized their appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the African Union and wished the South African mediators every success in the following summit held in April in Pretoria among the parties in Côte d'Ivoire.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In response to an attack against a patrol of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by the Front des Nationalistes et Intégrationnistes in Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 25 February, that led to the murder of nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers, the Security Council adopted on 2 March, a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/10), in which it condemned with the utmost firmness the attack and welcomed the action of MONUC against the militia groups responsible for these killings and the continued robust action of MONUC in pursuit of its mandate. It also called upon the Government of National Unity and Transition to immediately take all necessary measures to bring to justice the perpetrators, sponsors and authors of the attack.

On 14 March, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported to the Council on the work of the Committee and its deliberations regarding the recommendations submitted to it by the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in its latest report (S/2005/30). He informed that most of such recommendations had been endorsed and should be reflected in a resolution to be eventually adopted regarding the possible renewal of the Group of Experts' mandate. Among the recommendations, the establishment of a travel ban and the freeze of assets for the violators of the arms embargo were under consideration.

At separate meetings on 22 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, William Swing, assisted by the Deputy Force Commander of MONUC, General Patrick Cammaert, briefed the Security Council and troop-contributing countries on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, highlighting the preparation for the next elections, the reform of the security sector and the adoption of the constitution and the electoral law. The Special Representative provided further information on the Secretary-General's "zero-tolerance policy" regarding allegations of sexual abuse by MONUC personnel, and on measures being taken by MONUC, with the support of the Secretariat, to curb these practices and ensure that those responsible be brought to justice. He called upon the international community to increase its support to the Democratic Republic

of the Congo, particularly to the reform of the security sector, as well as to the holding of elections.

On 30 March, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1592 (2005), extending the mandate of MONUC until 1 October 2005, with the intention to renew it for further periods.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

On 11 March, the Security Council met with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

On 14 March, the Council adopted resolution 1586 (2005), on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea, in which it decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE until 15 September 2005 and called on both parties to refrain from any increase of troops in the areas adjacent to the Temporary Security Zone and to refrain from any threat or use of force against each other. In the same document, the Council stressed its commitment to the peace process and to the full and expeditious implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Guinea-Bissau

On 28 March, the Secretary-General's Representative in Guinea-Bissau, João Bernardo Honwaa, briefed the Security Council on the latest developments in that country and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS). He expressed concern with the present political environment, as presidential elections are scheduled to take place on 19 June 2005, particularly on the nomination of presidential candidates which may challenge the Political Transition Charter. He voiced satisfaction at the beginning of the military reintegration programme, but called for a more inclusive process. Regarding the reform of the Armed Forces, he said that UNOGBIS was fostering dialogue between the civil authorities and the military leadership, yet it still lacked the means to better fulfil its mandate, as authorized by resolution 1580 (2004). The Representative recalled the positive assessment made by international financial institutions regarding the performance of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and reiterated the call for a stronger commitment by the international community to assist Guinea-Bissau as part of an urgently needed peacebuilding strategy in that country.

On 31 March, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/14) recognizing some progress made in Guinea-Bissau and expressing, at the same time, its growing concern, particularly with the decision by the Partido da Renovação Social to select ex-President Kumba Yalá as its presidential candidate, with potential risks to the successful conclusion of the transitional process and forthcoming presidential elections. The Security Council also reiterated previous appeals for international development partners to cooperate fully with the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

Liberia

On 29 March, in informal consultations, Special Representative Jacques Klein introduced the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2005/177) and members of the Council discussed progress in

the implementation of the key elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, in particular with regard to October elections and the need for further international assistance to reintegration of ex-combatants. The Chairperson of the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) presented to the Security Council the Committee's views on the preliminary report of the Panel of Experts (S/2005/176) on the country's ability to establish a certification scheme compatible with the Kimberley Process. The discussion was part of the midterm review of measures prohibiting the import of rough diamonds from Liberia, as called for by resolution 1579 (2004).

Somalia

The Security Council adopted, on 7 March, a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/11), in which it welcomed the progress made in the Somali national reconciliation process, in particular the Transitional Federal Government's relocation efforts, urged all Somali factions and militia leaders to cease hostilities and reaffirmed its full support for the peace process in Somalia and the commitment of the United Nations to assist the regional and subregional efforts in this regard.

On 15 March the Council adopted resolution 1586 (2005), requesting the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, to re-establish, for a period of six months, the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004). The mandate of the Group includes, inter alia, to continue investigating the implementation of the arms embargo by Member States and violations and to continue refining and updating information on the draft list of those individuals and entities who violate the measures implemented by Member States in accordance with resolution 733 (1992).

Sudan

Through the adoption of resolutions 1585 (2005) and 1588 (2005), on 10 and 17 March, respectively, the Security Council extended, for seven days each time, the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS), established by resolution 1547 (2004).

On 24 March, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 1590 (2005) which established the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), for an initial period of six months, consisting of up to 10,000 military personnel and an appropriate civilian component, including up to 715 civilian police personnel. According to the new resolution, all functions performed by UNAMIS were transferred to UNMIS, together with its staff and logistics. UNMIS is mandated mainly to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed on 9 January 2005 by the Government of the Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. UNMIS shall also liaise and coordinate, at all levels, with the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) with a view towards expeditiously reinforcing the effort to foster peace in Darfur. Acting under Chapter VII, the Council also authorized UNMIS to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, in the areas of deployment of its forces, and as it deems within its capabilities.

On 29 March, the Council adopted resolution 1591 (2005), referring mainly to the situation in Darfur. The resolution establishes a committee responsible for designating individuals who will be subject to a travel ban and the freezing of

assets, also set out in the same resolution. The body will also monitor implementation of these measures, with the assistance of a group of experts to be appointed by the Secretary-General.

On 31 March, the Council adopted resolution 1593 (2005). The resolution refers the situation in Darfur since July 2002 to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and urges the Government of the Sudan and third countries to cooperate fully with the Court. The resolution also emphasizes the need for reconciliation and healing and encourages the creation of institutions which can complement judicial processes.

Americas

Haiti

On 9 March, in informal consultations, Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission to Haiti (S/2005/124) on major recent developments in Haiti. Mr. Annabi stressed the fact that MINUSTAH had almost reached its fully authorized strength level and had substantially enhanced its capacity to respond to security threats. Notwithstanding, he said, the security situation continued to be unstable.

In a press statement, members of the Council underlined that national reconciliation, security and economic development remained key to stability in Haiti. They stressed that successful elections hinge upon the capacity of the Transitional Government to achieve progress, with the support of MINUSTAH, in these areas during this crucial phase of the political transition. They also encouraged all Haitian political actors to continue their efforts through an inclusive national dialogue and to renounce violence to advance their goals, and called on all political parties and Haitian voters to participate in the electoral process. Council members expressed concern about the human rights situation. Members of the Council renewed their appeal for prompt disbursement of funds pledged by donors.

In a letter dated 31 March 2005, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that members of the Security Council had decided to send a mission to Haiti from 13 to 16 April 2005, which would be led by Brazil, and would be held in conjunction with the mission of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council.

Asia

Afghanistan

The Security Council was briefed, on 22 March, by Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Mr. Arnault recalled the announcement by Afghan electoral authorities of the date of 18 September 2005 for the holding of parliamentary and provincial elections. He affirmed that, while the security situation overall had improved since the presidential elections last October, protecting the life of United Nations staff remained a priority.

On 24 March, the Security Council adopted resolution 1589 (2005), recognizing, among the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan, the fight against narcotics, the lack of security in certain areas, terrorist threats and the need for a comprehensive nationwide disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the Afghan Militia Forces and disbandment of illegal armed groups. Timely preparation for the parliamentary, provincial and district elections, development of Afghan Government institutions, acceleration of justice sector reform, promotion and protection of human rights, and economic and social development were other issues covered by the resolution. The Council decided to extend the mandate of UNAMA for an additional period of 12 months.

Georgia

In a private meeting, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Security Council on 21 March, on the results of his visit to Georgia. In that opportunity, the representative of Georgia made a statement before the Council.

Iraq

On 8 March, the acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrios Perricos, presented to the Council the twentieth quarterly report on the work of UNMOVIC and offered his views on how to eventually proceed towards closure on the question of Iraq's disarmament obligations.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 9 March, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/12), by which it welcomed the conclusions of the London Meeting on Supporting the Palestinian Authority, held on 1 March, and expressed the hope that the occasion would be part of longer-term international support to the Palestinian people and Authority, as well as a contribution towards the implementation of the road map endorsed by Security Council resolution 1515 (2003). The Council welcomed the comprehensive plan presented by President Mahmoud Abbas at the meeting for strengthening the Palestinian Authority's institutions in the areas of security, good governance and development of the Palestinian economy. It also reiterated its call on both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to ensure continued progress towards full implementation of the road map in direct contact with the Quartet.

On 24 March, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, delivered his monthly briefing to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. Mr. Prendergast stressed the concern of the United Nations over Israel's failure to dismantle settlement outposts and freeze settlement expansion. Referring to the barrier under construction in the West Bank, he said that the approved route still incorporated a significant percentage of Palestinian land and had a negative effect on the livelihoods of many Palestinians. Mr. Prendergast condemned the 25 February suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, which had left five Israelis dead and injured more than 50. He recalled that the Secretary-General had called on

the Palestinian Authority to take action against those organizing and perpetrating terror and violence. It was the Quartet's position, he said, that neither the Israelis nor Palestinians should undertake actions that threatened to prejudge final status talks. He informed that the implementation of the commitments made at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit, on 8 February continued. He said that the Secretary-General's visit to the region left him with a strong impression of Israeli Prime Minister Sharon's determination to proceed with the Disengagement Plan, even in the face of serious domestic opposition. The Secretary-General had then reiterated the position of the United Nations and the Quartet that withdrawal was not an end in itself, but an important step in a broader process, and should be consistent with the road map and its goals.

On 29 March, in informal consultations, Mr. Prendergast introduced the report (S/2005/203) of the Mission of Inquiry into the causes, circumstances and consequences of the 14 February terrorist bombing in Beirut, which was established by the Secretary-General following a request of the Council in its presidential statement of 15 February 2005 (S/PRST/2005/4). Through a letter, which endorsed the recommendations of the Mission of Inquiry, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the Security Council to launch an independent international investigation into the terrorist attack, which killed former Prime Minister Hariri and 19 others.

Europe

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 4 March, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Dimitrij Rupel, briefed the Security Council. After recalling the lively high-level discussion about the future of the organization, he welcomed the reform debate and initiatives to further strengthen OSCE. He urged the members of the Security Council to support the organization's mediation efforts to help resolve long-standing conflicts.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In a public meeting held on 23 March, High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Paddy Ashdown, briefed the Security Council on developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the second half of 2004. He observed that the fact that the Republika Srpska had started to hand over indictees to The Hague Tribunal could indicate a change in the attitude of the Republika Srpska towards the fulfilment of its obligations. He expressed the hope that 2005 will mark Bosnia and Herzegovina's decisive break with its past by meeting the requirements for stabilization and association for the European Union and membership in the NATO Partnership for Peace.

Other issues

Wrap-up session on the work of the Security Council in the month of March

On 30 March, the Security Council held a wrap-up session on the African dimension in the work of the Security Council. Non-members of the Council were

encouraged to participate in the public meeting. A background paper (S/2005/188) was prepared under the responsibility of the Brazilian delegation, to support the discussions.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

In a letter dated 14 March 2005, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that members of the Security Council had agreed to extend until 31 March 2005 the nomination period for ICTY ad litem judges, in order to try to reduce the “gap” of the required number of nominations, in response to a letter of the Secretary-General dated 24 February 2005 (S/2005/127).
