



Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

6598th meeting

Wednesday, 3 August 2011, 3 p.m.

New York

Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri	(India)
<i>Members:</i>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mr. Fernandes
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Mougara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.



The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Council for the month of August 2011, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany, for his services as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2011. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Wittig and his delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

“The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria, and expresses profound regret at the death of many hundreds of people.

“The Security Council condemns the widespread violations of human rights and the use of force against civilians by the Syrian authorities.

“The Security Council calls for an immediate end to all violence and urges all sides to act with utmost restraint, and to refrain from reprisals, including attacks against State institutions.

“The Security Council calls on the Syrian authorities to fully respect human rights and to comply with their obligations under applicable international law. Those responsible for the violence should be held accountable.

“The Security Council notes the announced commitments by the Syrian authorities to reform, and regrets the lack of progress in

implementation, and calls upon the Syrian Government to implement its commitments.

“The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria. It stresses that the only solution to the current crisis in Syria is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process, with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the population which will allow the full exercise of fundamental freedoms for its entire population, including that of expression and peaceful assembly.

“The Security Council calls on the Syrian authorities to alleviate the humanitarian situation in crisis areas by ceasing the use of force against affected towns, to allow expeditious and unhindered access for international humanitarian agencies and workers, and to cooperate fully with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

“The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to update the Security Council on the situation in Syria within seven days.”

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2011/16.

I now give the floor to those representatives who wish to make a statement.

Ms. Ziade (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to quote from the statement made by the representative of Lebanon at the Security Council meeting of 27 April:

“What takes place in Lebanon affects Syria, and what takes place in Syria affects Lebanon. History has demonstrated that fact most convincingly ... Today, more than ever, the hearts and minds of all Lebanese people stand in support of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, its people and the safety and security of its children ... We regret the deaths of the victims. We extend our condolences to their families and hope that Syria will enjoy peace and progress.” (*S/PV.6524, p. 9*)

As Lebanon believes that presidential statement S/PRST/2011/16 adopted today does not help to

address the current situation in Syria, Lebanon disassociates itself from the statement.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.