

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 19 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the report on the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of France in August 2012 (see annex). This document was prepared under my supervision, after consultation with the other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gérard Araud



Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of France (August 2012)

Introduction

During the month of August 2012, under the Presidency of Ambassador Gérard Araud, the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, the Security Council held eight formal meetings, of which two were private and six were open. The Council also held 13 consultations of the whole, adopted one resolution and one presidential statement, and issued seven statements to the press.

Information meeting with the Department of Political Affairs

The Security Council held consultations on 7 August in order to hear an informal briefing in the “horizon scanning” format by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman. The purpose of the meeting was for the Department of Political Affairs to provide a medium-term review of the political challenges that it believed should be carefully monitored. The Department chose to focus on Somalia and Camp Ashraf in Iraq. The objective of the exercise was to go beyond immediate crisis management and consider the medium-term perspective.

On Somalia, the Secretariat took the view that once that country had acquired new institutions, joint consideration should be given to defining a framework of action for the post-transition phase. The high-level meeting planned for 26 September on the sidelines of the General Assembly at the invitation of the Secretary-General would provide an opportunity for dialogue with the new authorities on the priorities for international assistance to the Somali people. The Secretariat announced that it would conduct a strategic review of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in order to adjust the United Nations presence to the new situation in Somalia by the end of the year. The members of the Security Council agreed on the need for a press statement to stress the necessity of keeping the 20 August deadline for completion of the transition in Somalia.

On the situation in Camp Ashraf, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs indicated that the sixth transfer of residents to Camp Liberty was still being held up, although the Iraqi Government had been calling for an immediate transfer since 25 July. He recalled that Camp Liberty was only a temporary solution, pending the permanent resettlement of the residents. He called on Member States to facilitate that resettlement in order to help Iraq resolve the issue. All the members of the Council stressed their commitment to a peaceful solution that would respect both Iraqi sovereignty and the humanitarian obligations deriving from international law. Some members of the Council indicated that they were prepared to consider receiving some former residents of the camp after review and submission of files by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 2 August the Security Council adopted a press statement on the crisis in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SC/10736). The text condemned the 23 March Movement (M23), called for the continuation of dialogue between President Kabila and President Kagame with a view to finding a durable political solution and condemned all outside support provided to M23, including from outside countries. The statement reiterated the Security Council's support for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and its efforts to protect civilians in that country, while recalling that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo bore the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians.

On 27 August the Security Council held consultations on the humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At that meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, reported on her recent visit to the region. She indicated that since April 2012, 283,000 people had fled the violence perpetrated by M23 in North Kivu. She emphasized her concern about the violence carried out by M23. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs also informed members of the Council about her meetings with the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other officials of the Congolese Government, and with the Prime Minister of Rwanda and other officials of the Rwandan Government.

On 29 August the Security Council held two separate informal interactive dialogues. The first was held with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Rwanda, Louise Mukishiwabo, and the second with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Raymond Tshibanda.

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

By a letter dated 21 August (S/2012/657), the President of the Security Council responded to a letter from the Secretary-General dated 13 August (S/2012/656) concerning the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), and indicated that the Council had taken note of the proposal of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of UNOCA for 18 months, until 28 February 2014.

Mali

On 8 August the Security Council held a briefing to consider the situation in Mali under the agenda item "Peace and security in Africa". Participants in the meeting included the Secretary-General; the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Salamatou Hussaini-Suleiman; the Permanent Observer of the African Union, Tété António; and the Permanent Representative of Mali, Oumar Daou. Immediately following the briefing, Council members held consultations of the whole during which they heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and discussed the draft strategic concept of ECOWAS, which had been transmitted to the members of the Council on 4 August.

On 10 August the Security Council issued a press statement on Mali (SC/10741), which welcomed the return to Bamako of interim President Traoré, recalled the expectations of the international community vis-à-vis the transitional authorities regarding the ending of the crisis and called on the members of the former junta to cease all interference in the country's political affairs. The statement also commended the ongoing strategic planning efforts with a view to the deployment of an ECOWAS stabilization force in Mali. It called for increased cooperation by ECOWAS with the Malian authorities, countries in the region, the African Union and the United Nations in order to prepare the detailed options awaited by the Security Council.

Sudan-South Sudan

On 9 August the Security Council held an informal interactive dialogue to consider the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012) by the Sudan and South Sudan, with the participation (by videoconference from Johannesburg, South Africa) of the Chairman of the High-level Implementation Panel of the African Union (AU), former President Thabo Mbeki, and the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios. The meeting was followed by consultations of the whole on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The review of the situation occurred after the deadline of 2 August established by resolution 2046 (2012) for the fulfilment of its requirements, and after the meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which had taken place on 3 August. Mr. Mbeki and Mr. Menkerios gave a factual presentation on the status of the negotiations and of the agreements concluded on 3 August. The members of the Security Council agreed on the need to adopt a presidential statement. For his part, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, who was participating in the consultations, stressed the stability of the security situation and the withdrawal of the armed forces from Abyei, with the exception of the Diffra oil police. He noted, however, that the administrative authority and police service of Abyei had not yet been established.

In accordance with its resolution 2046 (2012), which provides for consultations every 15 days on its implementation, the Security Council met again on 23 August. The members of the Council were briefed on the situation by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. They recalled their support for the decisions of the African Union and stressed the need for the parties to resolve the pending issues of borders, the final status of Abyei and the establishment of a safe demilitarized border zone. They also stressed the urgent need for the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Northern Sector (SPLM-N) to implement the memoranda of understanding on the delivery of humanitarian relief in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions.

On 31 August the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/19) on the follow-up to resolution 2046 (2012). In the statement, the Council welcomed the progress made by the parties, in particular the agreement on oil and related financial arrangements. It recalled the deadline of 2 August and expressed regret that agreements on a number of critical issues had not yet been finalized by the parties, in particular concerning borders, the final status of Abyei and the establishment of a safe demilitarized border zone. It supported the convening by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, supported by the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), of a

round of interactions with the parties to enable them to reach the necessary agreements on all outstanding issues. It reiterated its intention to take appropriate measures under Article 41 of the Charter as necessary. Lastly, the Statement stressed the urgency of delivering humanitarian relief to the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states and called on the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N to implement the memoranda of understanding concluded to that end with the tripartite plan proposed by the United Nations, AU and the League of Arab States.

Sudan-Darfur

On 15 August the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/10744) in which it condemned the attack on an African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) police centre in Nyala (South Darfur), during which one peacekeeper was killed. It called on the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Somalia

On 10 August the Security Council issued a press statement on Somalia concerning the transition process (SC/10740), bearing in mind the deadline of 20 August established by the road map for ending the transition. The members of the Security Council welcomed the progress made in implementing the road map, in particular the adoption of the new Constitution. They also called for the members of the new Parliament to be selected as quickly as possible so that the deadline of 20 August could be met, and referred to the possibility of violence and intimidation. Lastly, they reiterated the importance of the Somali authorities establishing legitimate institutions in the areas liberated by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali security forces.

On 28 August the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Somalia, during which they received a briefing via videoconference from the headquarters of AMISOM in Mogadishu by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga. On that basis, the Council was able to determine the status of the ongoing transition process after the deadline of 20 August.

On 29 August a press statement (SC/10749) was issued which welcomed recent landmark events in Somalia, including the adoption of the provisional Constitution by the National Constituent Assembly and the holding of the inaugural meeting of the new Parliament, and called on the Parliament to elect a President of the Republic without delay in order to complete the transition process.

Europe

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

On 21 August the Security Council held a debate on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The Prime Minister of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, and Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo participated in the meeting. On the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/603), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of UNMIK, Farid Zarif, reviewed the political and security developments in Kosovo over the past three months. He noted that the situation on the ground remained tense and that ethnic tensions partially

explained the low number of displaced persons who had decided to return to their regions of origin. The members of the Council stressed the importance of resuming the bilateral dialogue.

Middle East

United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic

On 2 August the Security Council held consultations of the whole on the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (UNSMIS). The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, indicated that, at the four sites at which it was present, UNSMIS had observed a persistent conflict situation and the continued use of heavy weapons such as artillery, tanks, helicopters and combat aircraft by the Syrian armed forces. The high levels of insecurity restricted the movements of UNSMIS. The humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate with 2 million people in need of assistance. Of the 6,000 detainees known to UNSMIS, only 610 had been released. He emphasized the need to continue exploring diplomatic solutions to the crisis. He announced that the Secretariat was reviewing ways and means of maintaining a United Nations presence in the Syrian Arab Republic. All the members of the Council expressed regret at the resignation of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria, Kofi Annan, and expressed their appreciation for his efforts. The discussion focused, inter alia, on the United Nations presence to be maintained, and some Council members recalled the conditions laid down by resolution 2059 (2012) for renewal of the mandate of UNSMIS.

On 9 August a meeting was held with the troop-contributing countries to UNSMIS.

On 16 August the Security Council held consultations of the whole on UNSMIS. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations stressed the constraints on the movements of UNSMIS arising from the high levels of insecurity. Since the deployment of UNSMIS, violence had steadily intensified, along with an increasing use of heavy weapons on the part of the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic. He also stressed that UNSMIS had been an important tool to facilitate and support progress towards resolving the conflict. It was necessary to find means of ensuring that UNSMIS could continue to perform that function in the future. The Council members expressed regret at the level of violence observed and the continued use of heavy weapons, which led to the UNSMIS drawdown.

Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 22 August the Security Council held consultations on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that no progress had been made towards sustained negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He stressed the urgent need to resolve the fiscal situation of the Palestinian Authority. He expressed concern about the demolitions and forced evictions carried out by the Israeli authorities in Area C and in East Jerusalem. He condemned the attack perpetrated on 5 August in Sinai and the rocket firings from Gaza into Israel and said the incidents underlined the fragility of the security situation. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the humanitarian situation was rapidly deteriorating and the Under-Secretary-General for

Humanitarian Affairs had called on the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic to open greater humanitarian access. With regard to Lebanon, he said that internal tensions were being exacerbated by the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic and called for the preservation of stability in Lebanon. All members of the Council welcomed the appointment of Lakhdar Brahimi as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria and expressed the hope that he would rapidly identify the conditions for a peaceful political transition.

By a letter dated 23 August, the President of the Security Council responded to a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine dated 27 February 2012 and indicated that, having considered the invitation from President Abbas to make a visit to the region, the members of the Council had not reached consensus.

Other matters relating to the Middle East item (situation in the Syrian Arab Republic)

By a letter dated 17 August (S/2012/654), the President of the Security Council responded to a letter from the Secretary-General dated 10 August (S/2012/618) and indicated that the members of the Council had taken note of his intention to establish an effective and flexible United Nations presence in support of the work of the Joint Special Representative in the Syrian Arab Republic. He conveyed the support of the members of the Council for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General and for that of the Joint Special Representative for Syria.

On 30 August the Security Council held a high-level briefing on the humanitarian and security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, at which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, Laurent Fabius, presided. The Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, said that more than 2.5 million people were in grave need of assistance and protection inside the country. Two issues needed to be addressed, namely humanitarian access in the Syrian Arab Republic and the funding of humanitarian efforts. He called on the international community to mobilize in support of United Nations appeals for funding. He stressed that, ultimately, the crisis could be resolved only by a credible political process supported by a unified international community, allowing for an end to the violence and making possible a political transition carried out by the Syrians themselves. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. António Guterres, said that 229,000 people had fled from the Syrian Arab Republic as of 29 August. He welcomed the commitment of neighbouring countries. The ministers of Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey were invited to comment on the repercussions of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic for their countries. They stressed the major challenge involved in receiving Syrian refugees in their countries. They called on the international community to support them and on the Council to work in a concerted manner for a rapid end to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. The members of the Council, several of whom were represented at the ministerial level, then made comments. The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic also made a statement.

Lebanon

On 21 August, a meeting was held with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

On 23 August the Security Council held consultations on UNIFIL. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations noted that the UNIFIL

area of operations had remained stable. He emphasized the positive impact of the coordination and liaison arrangements to that end. He also indicated that UNIFIL was implementing the recommendations of the strategic review. However, he stressed the fragility of the situation as a result of regional volatility and encroachments on Lebanese sovereignty. All the members of the Council called on the parties to make progress on pending issues pursuant to resolution 1701 (2006) and expressed support for the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL. Most members expressed concern about the repercussions of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic on Lebanon and commended the policy of dissociation pursued by the Lebanese authorities.

On 30 August the Security Council adopted resolution 2064 (2012) extending the mandate of UNIFIL for one year. The resolution reflects the priorities and recommendations of the strategic review and calls for them to be put into effect with a view to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

Asia

Afghanistan

On 17 August the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/10745) condemning the coordinated terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, which had caused numerous deaths and injuries, mostly among civilians. The statement referred to the principles of international law and international humanitarian law in the context of combating terrorism. It commended the Afghan National Security Forces for their effective action, and reiterated its serious concern at the threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other illegal armed groups to the local population, national security forces, international military and international assistance efforts in Afghanistan.

Central Asia

On 7 August the Security Council held consultations on the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Director of the Centre, Miroslav Jenca, in his address to the Council, discussed the situation in Central Asia and the prospects of military disengagement in Afghanistan and its consequences for the region. The Special Representative described the Centre's work on cross-cutting issues of importance to the region, including water management and the implementation of the regional plan of action for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in November 2011.

The participants welcomed the role of the Centre as an example of preventive diplomacy mechanisms available to the United Nations and acknowledged the role played by the Centre. A press statement was issued on 8 August (SC/10739).

Non-proliferation

By a note (S/2012/677), the President of the Security Council circulated on 30 August the report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of that same date, which had been communicated to him in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1929 (2010).

Subsidiary bodies

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

On 21 August the Security Council held consultations of the whole on the quarterly report of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006). The Chair, João Maria Cabral, reported on the work of the Committee during the period from 17 May 2012 to 21 August 2012, pursuant to paragraph 12 (g) of that resolution.

In his report, the Chair noted that, during the reporting period, the Committee had received two reports on alleged violations of the measures imposed under resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), and had also received information on cases previously reported. The report also took note of the extension of the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009), following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2050 (2012) on 12 June 2012.
