

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 18 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Russian Federation in June 2014 (see annex). The report was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Council.

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

(Signed) Vitaly **Churkin**



Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Russian Federation (June 2014)

Introduction

In June 2014, under the presidency of the Russian Federation, the Security Council carried out an extensive programme of work. It held 38 meetings and closed consultations, adopted six resolutions and agreed on two presidential statements and seven statements to the press.

Africa

Somalia

On 4 June, the Security Council heard an open briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, on the humanitarian situation in Somalia. She noted that progress in State-building and peacebuilding had not yet translated into an improvement in the humanitarian situation. Some 857,000 people required urgent and life-saving assistance, with 2 million Somalis on the margin of food insecurity. Decades of conflict had displaced more than 1 million people and forced another 1 million to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. She highlighted that only 15 per cent of the funding for the 2014 humanitarian appeal had been provided, urging immediate action to prevent the country from slipping back into a major crisis. In the closed consultations that followed, the members of the Council expressed serious concern about the humanitarian situation in Somalia and voiced support for the work of relevant agencies there. It was stressed that the international community should devote greater attention to the humanitarian needs of the Somali people.

Libya

On 9 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, provided a briefing to the Security Council on the latest developments in Libya, expressing concern about the persistent political tensions and security crisis threatening the process of transition. In that regard, he mentioned the ruling by the Supreme Court that had deemed unconstitutional the decision of the General National Congress to endorse a new cabinet led by Ahmed Meiteeg. He condemned continued clashes between armed groups and acts of aggression against civilians, in particular judges and journalists, and stressed that the security situation continued to impede the proper functioning of the justice system and slowed the pace of security sector rebuilding. He commended progress in the constitutional process, which had received fresh impetus with the convening of the first session of the Constitution Drafting Assembly. He laid special emphasis on the preparations for the election of members of the House of Representatives scheduled for 25 June. He expressed the hope that the election would be held in a peaceful atmosphere without delay,

reassuring the Council of his efforts aimed at urging all Libyan parties to resolve the political impasse through peaceful means. He also underlined his intention to convene, a week before the election, a meeting of representatives of the major Libyan actors in an effort to broker an agreement on political interaction, national priorities during the transition and ways of addressing immediate security and other crucial divisive issues.

The Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Eugène-Richard Gasana, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, presented his thirteenth report, covering the period from 10 March to 9 June. He provided a briefing on the follow-up action on recommendations made by the Panel of Experts, offered updated statistics concerning exemption requests, reported on the situation with the delivery of notified transfers of weapons to Libya and stressed the deficiencies of the existing procurement and control mechanisms in Libya that might cause risks of diversion and misuse of materiel.

In the consultations of the whole that followed, the members of the Security Council expressed support for the activities of UNSMIL and recognized its important role in stabilizing the situation in Libya. They voiced support for the efforts by the Libyan authorities for a democratic transition and their will to narrow differences so as to overcome the serious challenges facing the country. They stressed the importance of regional initiatives in the context of efforts to combat terrorism, cross-border crime and drug trafficking, highlighting the need to tackle humanitarian challenges. Many members expressed concern about evident problems with upholding the arms embargo in the absence of effective control by the Libyan authorities.

On 23 June, ahead of the elections of 25 June, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11447) in which it welcomed the holding of parliamentary elections as an important step in the country's transition towards stable democratic governance. The members of the Council, expressing grave concern about political divisions and the worsening security situation, which could be resolved only through a political process, called upon all parties in Libya to ensure that the elections were held peacefully. They also reaffirmed the Council's strong support for UNSMIL and commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 9 June, the Security Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of UNOCI, Aïchatou Mindaoudou Souleymane, underlined the prospects for intensifying the cooperation of UNOCI with the national armed forces for security operations in some areas of the country and the intention of the Operation to further enhance interaction with the United Nations Mission in Liberia, in particular across the borders. She said that UNOCI was, as a result of its continuing drawdown, consolidating its presence in sensitive areas. She asserted that the progress achieved had permitted the Operation to transfer some mandated tasks to the Government. She drew attention to a new concept of operations for the electoral period based on mobility, including aircraft capability. She focused on a proposal to

establish within UNOCI a rapid reaction force in order to maximize combat power and mitigate security vacuums without a permanent military presence.

On 16 June, the Special Representative provided a briefing to the Security Council on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, saying that the country was on its way to sustainable stability. The reconciliation process had reached a new level when, on 22 May, the Government and the Front populaire ivoirien had signed a communiqué. The President had sought to reach out to the previous regime elements in order to engage them in positive activity, but dialogue remained problematic. The upcoming elections in October 2015 were of utmost importance for the country's stability. Although the security situation had improved significantly since 2011, armed robberies, banditry and other criminal activity continued. She emphasized the need to tackle the root causes of the conflict, notably land and nationality issues, and accelerate the inclusive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. She called upon the Council to adopt a careful approach to the planned reduction of UNOCI military personnel and insisted on the need to create a rapid reaction force to strengthen the mobility of the Operation with the aim of filling the security vacuum in some turbulent areas, notably in the west of the country. She praised the practice of using UNOCI and United Nations Mission in Liberia helicopters for joint trans-border operations.

The Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Youssoufou Bamba, expressed support for the general ideas and proposals made in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/342), expressing the hope that the Security Council would implement the recommendations made.

In the closed consultations that followed, some members of the Security Council voiced support for the proposal to gradually reduce UNOCI contingents, while others spoke in favour of a more significant reduction of 1,700 troops. Members raised concern with regard to the most pressing issues in the Ivorian context, such as land and nationality problems, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, combating impunity and cooperation with the International Criminal Court. Most members sought additional explanations regarding the modalities for the creation of the rapid reaction force.

On 25 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2162 \(2014\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNOCI until 30 June 2015.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 10 June, the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, provided a briefing to the Security Council in closed consultations via videoconference. He underscored the recent developments in the implementation of the agreements of 27 September 2012 between the two countries. In particular, he noted the official announcement by South Sudan of its decision to resume participation in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, although the prospects for the practical implementation of that intention remained unclear, given that Juba continued to disagree with the location of the centreline of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. He also welcomed the recent progress in the implementation of the joint approach by the Sudan and South Sudan to seek assistance from the international community in providing financial support to both countries, for comprehensive debt relief and for the lifting of economic sanctions on the Sudan. He noted that it was hardly possible to expect genuine and full

cooperation in implementing the joint approach unless the Sudan and South Sudan resolved their respective internal conflicts. In Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, the fighting between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North had intensified and there had been reports of attacks by the former against civilian targets in rebel-held areas. The talks between the Government and the movement were, however, expected to resume later in June, to be preceded by preparatory contacts by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel with the movement's leaders. With regard to the national dialogue in the Sudan, he stressed the importance of creating an atmosphere conducive to such a process, saying that the preparatory committee's actions had come to a halt as a result of recent negative events. He also informed the Council of the mediation efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to resolve the conflict in South Sudan.

The members of the Security Council emphasized the need for further progress in relations between the Sudan and South Sudan. Some argued that the complex internal situations in both countries accounted for the lack of significant progress in their bilateral relations. Several members highlighted the need to reverse recent negative trends around the national dialogue in the Sudan. They also expressed deep concern at the security and humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, including reports from non-governmental organizations about attacks against civilians and civilian facilities. Most members deplored the lack of substantive progress in the resolution of the crisis in South Sudan, while welcoming IGAD efforts in that regard. One member expressed support for the continued efforts aimed at debt relief and the lifting of economic sanctions on the Sudan, cautioned against interfering in the national dialogue, which was an internal Sudanese matter not related to resolution 2046 (2012), and proposed to impose targeted sanctions against those rebel leaders who were obstructing the peace process in the Sudan.

On 27 June, during an informal interactive dialogue, the Chair of the IGAD mediation team on South Sudan, Seyoum Mesfin, stressed the persistent challenges to the peace process in that country, which he attributed to the lack of political will, the continued pursuit of a military solution and reluctance by both parties to the conflict to engage in inclusive negotiations. He expressed deep concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the risk of regionalization and even internationalization of the crisis. In his opinion, the adjournment of talks in Addis Ababa did not mean their collapse, but both incentives and leverage were needed if they were to succeed. In particular, should the peace agreements continue to be violated, further collective action, including the imposition of punitive measures, would be required in order to put pressure on any party failing to honour its commitments. Such measures would be an extreme resort and should be calibrated, he said. He also underlined the need for close collaboration between the Security Council and the African Union and IGAD on the issues relating to such measures, including their timing and scope.

The members of the Security Council shared the concern of the Chair of the mediation team about the lack of progress in the peace process and the grave humanitarian situation in South Sudan, in addition to his vision of incentives and leverage that could be used to encourage the parties to the conflict to fulfil their commitments.

Mali

On 11 June, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11438) in which it condemned in the strongest terms the act of violence against the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in the town of Aghelhoc, which had taken the lives of four Chadian peacekeepers. The members of the Council reiterated their support for the efforts of the Malian authorities to stabilize Mali, re-establish State administration throughout the country and launch an effective and inclusive national dialogue.

On 17 June, the Security Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops and police to MINUSMA. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSMA, Albert Gerard Koenders, gave a briefing in which he focused on the main challenges in the context of asymmetric threats in the north of the country. He highlighted several aspects that were preventing MINUSMA from reaching its full operational capacity, such as the incomplete deployment of contingents, a shortage of helicopters and loopholes in force protection. The issues of instability in the political and security situation, imminent threats to the security of peacekeepers and the growing problem of potable water supply were raised during the discussion that followed.

On 18 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2014/403), stressed that the security situation had seriously deteriorated, with violent clashes in the north, while the political process remained fragile. Stabilization efforts, including the restoration of State authority, the re-establishment of security and the protection of civilians, remained contingent on the successful conclusion of peace talks between the Government and northern armed groups in the framework of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement of 18 June 2013. He underscored the urgent need to complete as soon as possible the planned deployment of MINUSMA military and civilian personnel. He elaborated on the four general recommendations made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat as a result of a strategic review of MINUSMA: to reiterate the central importance of the political process and reframe and strengthen the Mission's political role; to develop a shared vision for the way forward between the Mission and the Malian authorities; to maintain the troop and police ceiling while expanding the Mission's presence and mobility in the north as part of an integrated stabilization strategy; and to add or clarify tasks such as support for cantonment, local elections and electoral reform, transitional justice and military justice, counter-trafficking capacity-building and enhanced support to the Malian military. He also signalled the Department's intention to deploy unmanned aerial systems in order to enhance the Mission's situational awareness and its ability to protect civilians and its own personnel.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation of Mali, Abdoulaye Diop, confirmed that the Government was strongly committed to national cohesion and ready for a dialogue with the armed groups. He hailed the Algerian initiative in that regard. He also stressed that the security threats had worsened because various terrorist, rebel and criminal groups were forming alliances with one another for particular attacks. He welcomed the support of the Security Council and other international players, notably the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, and introduced a number of his country's proposals aimed at strengthening the Mission's mandate.

Speaking to the Security Council during the closed consultations that followed, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSMA touched upon the prospects for expanding the Mission's presence in the north of the country, in particular outside the large cities, and called for contributors to be more active in their efforts.

The members of the Security Council stressed the need for the Malian authorities to assume full responsibility for the security situation throughout the country, with the support of the international community. Some of them characterized as inappropriate the attempts to equate the legitimate Government of Mali with the armed groups, especially those refusing to refrain from extremist activities.

On 25 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2164 \(2014\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2015.

Liberia

On 16 June, the Permanent Representative of Jordan, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1521 \(2003\)](#) concerning Liberia, provided a briefing to the Council, in consultations of the whole, on the Committee's work to date in 2014, with a focus on its three informal consultations and the findings and recommendations made in the midterm report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia ([S/2014/363](#)).

The members of the Security Council recognized the achievements made by the Government in the country's post-conflict development, including the absence of violations of the arms embargo during the period under consideration. At the same time, they expressed concern at the Government's slow progress in introducing legislation on the possession of weapons, marking all weapons stocks and fully securing its borders. Given the advances made in Liberia since the sanctions regime was first imposed, most members considered that it was timely to begin consideration of the phasing out of sanctions in a responsible manner.

International Criminal Court/Sudan

On 17 June, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, provided a briefing to the Security Council on the situation in Darfur, which had been referred to the Court by the Council pursuant to resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#). She expressed serious dissatisfaction about the absence of meaningful steps to apprehend Darfur suspects who remained at large and about the continuing non-cooperation of some States with the Court regarding the execution of the arrest warrants for those suspects. She noted that the Court's judicial process could not move forward without such arrests. She also raised the issue of recent allegations that reporting from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur had been subject to manipulation.

The members of the Security Council voiced their deep concern about the situation in Darfur, in particular the increasing number of refugees and displaced persons and the attacks on peacekeepers and staff involved in humanitarian activities in the region. Several shared the Prosecutor's concern about the lack of cooperation on the part of States with the Court. Some stressed the importance of

maintaining a balance between the interests of peace and justice while addressing the situation in Darfur.

Peace and security in Africa

On 19 June, the Security Council received a briefing from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel in the areas of governance, security and resilience. She described the deterioration of the political and security situation in the region, the enduring political and security challenges in Libya and Mali and the persistent terrorist threat throughout the region, notably the attacks carried out by Boko Haram in Nigeria. She said that the humanitarian situation in the region remained extremely fragile. The high level of youth unemployment increased the appeal of violent ideology. She called upon the international community to improve the coordination of initiatives on the Sahel, primarily on the basis of the ministerial coordination platform, to avoid competing interventions that might delay progress.

The members of the Security Council expressed their full support for the Special Envoy and shared her evaluation of the alarming situation in the region, underscoring the need to tackle the root causes of existing interrelated problems. Many members stated that 2015 would be a crucial test for the efficiency of the integrated strategy for Sahel in the light of the upcoming elections in a number of countries in the region. Some members highlighted the urgent need to prevent further radicalization in the region. Others emphasized the connections between the terrorist groups acting in the Sahel and those destabilizing the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

Central African Republic

On 24 June, in a briefing by videoconference, the Acting Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Babacar Gaye, highlighted the tense security situation in the Central African Republic, including a series of deadly attacks by anti-Balaka elements and ex-Séléka rebels against civilians. Some 20,000 people were trapped in 16 locations, cut off from food and medical supplies. He stressed that all armed groups were committing human rights violations and that 360,000 people had fled to neighbouring countries. Efforts to reverse insecurity were moving too slowly, given that the Government lacked its own security forces and the finances necessary to tackle the crisis. The continuing violence and social antagonism made problematic the holding of credible elections in 2015. To achieve lasting security, disarmament was vital, as was the launch of a negotiating process leading to a political agreement. While the Central Africans themselves must own that dialogue, there could be no lasting solutions without United Nations engagement. He noted that the international community's attention had prevented the country from falling into a spiral of violence. While the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic continued to make all efforts necessary to back the authorities and people as they faced immediate challenges, the timely and full deployment of the 12,000-strong MINUSCA and the continued commitment of the region and international community would be critical in that regard.

The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said that the goal of her recent visit to Bangui had been to give visibility to the plight of women and girls in the light of the reports of rape, sexual slavery and early and forced marriage perpetrated by armed actors. She had also wished to ensure that MINUSCA addressed gender issues from the outset and to encourage the participation of women in national reconciliation and dialogue, transitional justice and the upcoming elections. She emphasized that it was imperative for all troops participating in MINUSCA to receive specialized United Nations training on preventing sexual violence in conflict before deployment, adding that it would be the first time since the development of the module that a compliance rate of 100 per cent had been achieved.

The Minister of Public Health, Social Affairs and Gender and Humanitarian Action of the Central African Republic, Marguerite Marie Maliavo-Samba, stressed the security challenges that her country faced owing to the absence of an efficient national army, police force and judiciary. She asserted that the crisis was not sectarian but political in nature and was the product of a negative role played by the media at the national and international levels. She urged swift international mobilization to meet humanitarian needs, only one third of which had been funded. She also underscored the regional scope of the crisis and the need to provide urgent assistance, not only to the people within the country, but also to Central African refugees.

In the closed consultations that followed, the members of the Security Council reiterated their grave concern about the deteriorating security, humanitarian and human rights situation in the Central African Republic, including the deepening inter-communal antagonism and violence causing deaths and forced displacements of civilians. They deplored the lack of tangible progress in the launch of inclusive political dialogue and reconciliation and the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation of combatants. All agreed that there was a need for timely transition to the full-fledged MINUSCA that would play a crucial role in normalizing the situation while underlining the main responsibility of the Central Africans themselves in that regard. The Council also expressed strong support for the efforts of regional stakeholders, in particular the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 6 June, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11431) in which it condemned a bomb attack in Kabul that had caused a number of deaths and injuries among civilians and security personnel. The members expressed their concern at the threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other terrorist and extremist groups and illegal armed groups in the country, reiterated their condemnation of any acts attempting to disrupt the elections, underlined their support for democratic processes in Afghanistan and looked forward to the second round of the presidential election and the continued orderly transition to a new administration.

On 25 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Ján Kubiš, provided a briefing to the Security Council on the situation in the country following the presidential and provincial elections. He said that the way in which the two presidential candidates and the country's leadership would manage the unfolding events would be vital to the unity and stability of Afghanistan. He appealed for calm among supporters of both candidates, saying that the candidates were to engage decisively and actively in finding solutions to the current deadlock. The Council also heard from the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yuri Fedotov, who said that an estimated 80 per cent of world's opium and heroin were produced in Afghanistan and expressed concern about the sharp increase in opium production there in 2013.

The members of the Security Council and participating States, welcoming the holding of presidential and provincial elections, underscored the importance of the democratic transfer of power and called upon all political entities to work together in accordance with the Constitution, with the aim of strengthening the country's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity in order to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future for all. They highlighted the security challenges posed to the country's stability by terrorist and extremist groups and drug trafficking, noted concerns about an increase in civilian casualties, as reported by the Secretary-General, and the human rights situation, called for the intensification of regional cooperation and international assistance and endorsed the critical role of UNAMA in helping the country to overcome existing problems.

The Security Council adopted two presidential statements, one on the elections in Afghanistan (S/PRST/2014/11) and the other on Afghan illicit drug production and drug trafficking (S/PRST/2014/12). In the former, the Council, among other things, called upon all stakeholders to engage with the electoral institutions and processes with patience and respect, refrain from any acts that incited imminent violence, civil disorder or led to instability and channel complaints through the established institutional mechanisms in line with the electoral laws and Constitution of Afghanistan. In the latter, the Council expressed concern at the increase in poppy production, noting the serious harm that opium cultivation, production, trafficking and consumption continued to cause to the stability, security and development of Afghanistan. The Council noted with concern the existing links between terrorism and illicit drugs and stressed in that regard the importance of advancing regional and interregional cooperation.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 17 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted two resolutions relating to the Taliban and Al-Qaida sanctions regimes, stipulating the possible further strengthening of the relevant measures in 18 months or sooner if necessary and extending the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) for 30 months from the mandate's date of expiration in June 2015.

In resolution 2160 (2014), on sanctions against the Taliban, the Security Council decided that all States should take measures against individuals and entities affiliated with that group, freezing without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of such individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, among

other actions. It also decided that States should prevent the entry into or transit through their national territories of those individuals.

In resolution [2161 \(2014\)](#), on measures against individuals and entities affiliated with Al-Qaida, the Security Council extended the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson, established by resolution [1904 \(2009\)](#), for 30 months from the mandate's date of expiration in June 2015 and the mandate of the Monitoring Team for the same period. While expressing concern about the increased use by terrorists of new information and communications technology, in particular the Internet, the Council urged States to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer of arms and related material of all types to individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida.

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

On 26 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Miroslav Jenča, provided a briefing on the developments in Central Asia to the Security Council in closed consultations. He said that the overall situation in the region remained stable, the persisting cross-border threats and a number of internal dynamics notwithstanding. He underscored the need to address the issues of governance, inter-ethnic relations, economic development and poverty reduction, social polarization and the radicalization of some segments of the population in order to reduce vulnerability to external threats. He emphasized that drug trafficking from Afghanistan and the spread of narcotics throughout the region continued to undermine security by exacerbating crime, corruption, health problems and terrorism. He underlined the positive impact of regional economic cooperation.

The members of the Security Council reaffirmed the importance of preventive diplomacy and early warning mechanisms for United Nations efforts to assist in the peaceful settlement of disputes and acknowledged the role of the Centre in assisting the countries of the region in responding to national and transnational threats to peace and in supporting sustainable development.

The Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11457) in which it commended the efforts of the Centre and welcomed its specific focus on supporting cooperation among Central Asian States in the areas of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and radicalization. The members underlined the threat posed by illicit drug production and trafficking to international peace and stability, acknowledged the continuing impact of the situation in Afghanistan on Central Asian States and encouraged increased cooperation and coordination in the region.

Middle East

Syrian Arab Republic

On 4 June, the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, Sigrid Kaag, provided a briefing in closed consultations on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#). She emphasized that significant progress had been attained over a period of nine months in dismantling most of the declared

chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. She noted that some 93 per cent of the programme had been either removed from Syrian territory or destroyed and that the remaining 7 per cent had been packaged and loaded, ready for transportation to Latakia. She said that some 7 per cent remained inaccessible owing to the volatility of the surrounding security situation at a site east of Damascus. She called upon all Member States to exercise their influence to ensure the immediate removal of the remaining chemicals. She said that the Syrian Arab Republic had facilitated two visits of OPCW technical personnel to address discrepancies found in the declaration and subsequent amendments. There might be additional visits in the future. There had been a further reduction in the number of personnel, she said, underlining the need for the Joint Mission to continue its work for a finite period beyond 30 June 2014 to verify the completion of most remaining activities.

Most members of the Security Council called for the early removal of the remaining chemical materials and noted the continuing importance of the Joint Mission's work after 30 June, with several members recognizing the legitimate security concerns of the Government regarding the delay in removing the remaining chemicals. Many stressed the need for the fact-finding mission to investigate the allegations concerning the use of chlorine gas in the Syrian Arab Republic to accomplish its work, although some members expressed doubt about warranted proof in that regard. Most members called for an agreement to be reached soon in OPCW regarding the plan for the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons production facilities and stressed the need to resolve the issue of discrepancies in the original declaration made by the Syrian Arab Republic. Other members noted significant progress in the removal of chemicals beyond the borders of the Syrian Arab Republic and pointed out that the verification of initial declaration had been conducted transparently. They recalled that, after all the chemicals had been moved outside the Syrian Arab Republic, the Joint Mission would focus on the destruction of former chemical weapons production facilities, which would lead to its partial drawdown and reconfiguring. They expressed concern that the fact-finding mission might not be able to complete its work owing to the security situation.

On 26 June, during an open briefing on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator informed the Security Council of developments in the implementation of resolution [2139 \(2013\)](#). She stressed that violence and attacks on civilians continued unabated, with devastating consequences for those affected. She recalled numerous examples of targeted or indiscriminate attacks on civilians in densely populated areas in violation of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. She said that 241,000 people continued to live under siege conditions, with only 1 per cent of those having been assisted with food during the past month, and that the number of people in need had increased by 1.2 million to reach 4.7 million. She also said that armed opposition groups had increased their attacks against civilian infrastructure. She highlighted that the Government's arbitrary restrictions and obstructions and onerous administrative procedures were impeding the delivery of aid to those in need, another reason being insecurity and active conflict, in addition to attacks and threats against humanitarian workers on the part of some opposition groups. She criticized the Government's continued prohibition of the inclusion of medical supplies intended for opposition-held areas. She mentioned, however, that, the challenging and dangerous operational environment on the ground notwithstanding, some 3.3 million people had received

food assistance from the World Food Programme and partners in May, more than 16 million people had been assisted with clean drinking water, around 2.9 million children had been vaccinated against polio in the latest round, 2.3 million people had received critically needed non-food items from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its partners and 4 million people had received medical assistance from the World Health Organization in the first five months of 2014. She recalled that a mechanism of neutral monitors had recently been proposed to the Council, intended to facilitate cross-border humanitarian deliveries.

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bashar Ja'afari, made a statement in which he questioned the figures presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2139 \(2013\)](#) ([S/2014/427](#)). He also said that organizations such as the Nusra Front and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant should not be referred to by the Secretary-General as “armed opposition groups”, but rather as “terrorist groups” because they had been designated as such by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#) and [1989 \(2011\)](#) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities.

In the consultations of the whole that followed, the members of the Security Council condemned the violations of international humanitarian law by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. Many stressed the primary responsibility of the Government in that regard. Some condemned in particular the indiscriminate use of barrel bombs by the Government, while several called for efforts to combat terrorist activities. Most of the members criticized the Government for bureaucratic obstacles to humanitarian access. Most noted that resolution [2139 \(2013\)](#) had not been implemented. Some called in that regard for an urgent and serious political process; others looked forward to a new resolution providing for cross-border operations. One member suggested a plan to introduce a mechanism for monitoring cross-border humanitarian access that would be acceptable to the Government.

Iraq

On 4 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Nickolay Mladenov, provided a briefing, in closed consultations, on the situation in Iraq following the elections for the Council of Representatives that had been held on 30 April. He informed the Security Council of the preliminary results of the election, which had been carried out successfully, the continuing security challenges notwithstanding, and paid special attention to post-electoral prospects. He also focused on poor relations between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government. Concern was expressed about the continuing tension resulting, in particular, from unsettled disputes over rights regarding oil exports. He underscored the need to adopt relevant laws that would help to de-escalate the situation. He stressed that the security situation in Anbar continued to pose a threat to the stability of the country, in particular as a result of terrorist activities perpetrated by some radical groups, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. He reiterated his commitment to solving humanitarian problems in Anbar and called upon the international community to contribute to the strategic response plan for Anbar, funding for which remained significantly lacking.

The members of the Security Council highlighted the need to form a government of national unity in a timely and peaceful way. It was recommended that

Iraqi leaders at all levels continue to be engaged in an inclusive nationwide peace dialogue. The members shared the Special Representative's concern about the persistent terrorist threat in Iraq, while noting that all norms of international humanitarian law must be respected during government-led anti-terrorist operations. Special emphasis was laid on aspects relating to the alleviation of hardships facing internally displaced persons.

On 5 June, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11430) in which it expressed support for the efforts of UNAMI and the continuing United Nations assistance in Iraq. The members of the Council praised the Independent High Electoral Commission, the security forces and the people for carrying out a successful election, notwithstanding the security challenges presented by terrorist groups, in particular the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. They called upon all political entities to work together to take on the challenges facing the country and reach an accord on all pending subjects, including energy exports and revenue sharing. They reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Government to meet the security needs and encouraged the Government to continue working with UNAMI and humanitarian agencies. The Council encouraged States to contribute to the strategic response plan for Anbar.

On 11 June, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11437) in which it deplored the events in Mosul, where elements of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant had attacked Iraqi security personnel and civilians, thereby displacing hundreds of thousands of people, and denounced the taking of hostages at the Consulate of Turkey. The members of the Council reaffirmed their commitment to the security and territorial integrity of Iraq and welcomed the Government's plans for a national unity meeting to bring together all Iraqis to combat terror threats.

On 12 June, in closed consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI provided a briefing to the Security Council on the recent alarming developments in Iraq, underscoring his serious concern about the rapid advance of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in the northern and western provinces of Iraq and drawing attention to the dire humanitarian situation in the affected areas. Hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons had fled from Mosul to other regions, in particular Kurdistan.

The members of the Security Council expressed their grave concern about the speedy and unfettered advance of fighters from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant throughout Iraq and reaffirmed their commitment to the security and territorial integrity of the country. Some noted that the current crisis was deeply interlinked with the stand-off in the Syrian Arab Republic, while one underscored that the root causes of the turmoil in Iraq lay with the events of 2003. The members shared the Special Representative's concern about the persistent terrorist threats in Iraq, while noting that all norms of international law, including international humanitarian law, must be respected during government-led anti-terrorist operations. Special emphasis was laid on aspects relating to addressing the hardships facing internally displaced persons.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 17 June, during a private meeting of the Security Council with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, the

representative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided a briefing on the developments in the area of deployment in the Golan, highlighting recent violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement.

On 18 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations provided a briefing to the Security Council in closed consultations on the situation in the UNDOF area of operations. He recalled that it had been 40 years since the establishment of the Force. He noted that the security situation in the Golan remained volatile, jeopardizing the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. He highlighted the incidents of 18 and 19 March when, following the explosion of an improvised explosive device on the Alpha side of the separation line that had wounded four Israeli soldiers, the Israel Defense Forces had fired into the area of separation and limitation on the Bravo side, qualifying them as the most significant violations since the conclusion of the Disengagement Agreement. He also mentioned the incident of 2 June, when four rockets had been fired from a location near the UNDOF headquarters in Camp Faouar towards a pro-Government village, and the Israel Defense Forces, after indicating that one of the rockets had landed on the Alpha side, had fired at least five artillery rounds, resulting in pieces of shrapnel, debris and stone projectiles being found inside the camp. He mentioned the heavy fighting between the Syrian armed forces and the armed opposition forces, being most intense in the south-central parts of the area of separation, while the northern part had seen a general reduction in clashes, with local truce arrangements holding. He referred to an organized camp for 3,500 internally displaced persons in the area of separation next to the technical fence. He reiterated that the presence of the Syrian armed forces in the area was a grave violation of the Disengagement Agreement, recalling that there should be no military activities in that area. He expressed concern about the continued presence of improvised explosive devices placed by armed members of the Syrian opposition. In that regard, he touched upon the deployment of an Irish counter-improvised-explosive-device team to UNDOF in March, complaining that the equipment, which had arrived in Beirut in March, could not enter the Syrian Arab Republic until a response had been received from the Syrian authorities. He would raise the issue again during his visit to Damascus in a week's time. In conclusion, he underscored the importance of the continued presence of UNDOF in ensuring stability in the Golan and in the region, requesting the Council to extend the Force's mandate for a further six months.

The members of the Security Council expressed their full support for UNDOF, calling for a halt to all actions endangering personnel of UNDOF and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in their area of responsibility, in particular clashes between the Syrian parties, in which both sides were increasingly using heavy weapons, including tanks. Many expressed outrage at horrific crimes committed by some members of the Syrian armed opposition and the use of improvised explosive devices, calling in that regard upon the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to allow the entry of the counter-improvised-explosive-device equipment into the country. Some members voiced concern at the dropping of bombs on to the area of separation by Syrian armed forces aircraft on 23 and 24 April, while others called for the implementation of Security Council resolution [338 \(1973\)](#) and the return of the occupied Golan to the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 25 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2163 \(2014\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNDOF until 31 December 2014.

Yemen

On 20 June, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, provided a briefing in closed consultations on the situation in the country, highlighting the continuing political process, in particular the work of Constitution Drafting Committee, and the recent government offensive against Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. Speaking about the conflict with Houthis in the north, he said that the ceasefire of 4 June was tenuous, with sporadic clashes continuing, but was holding. He also underlined humanitarian problems and the fiscal crisis. He mentioned that elements of the former regime continued to agitate and cause problems, calling upon the Security Council to support the political transition.

The members of the Security Council shared the Special Adviser's view that, notwithstanding the many acute challenges, including combating Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen was moving forward on the path of political transition. They noted in that regard that the people should be assisted in constructing a peaceful, democratic State, building on the decisions of the National Dialogue Conference. They reiterated that all spoilers of the political process in Yemen should be dealt with and humanitarian needs addressed.

Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 23 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, in an open meeting, provided a briefing on the latest developments regarding the Israeli-Palestinian issue. He touched upon intensive search operations in the West Bank for the three Israeli students abducted near Hebron, the hunger strike by Palestinian detainees, new settlement announcements and the formation of a Palestinian government of national consensus. He underlined that the region was facing a moment of genuine crisis, with negative forces on multiple fronts continuing to draw strength by sowing strife and frustrating viable options for a political solution. He stressed the need for both sides to exercise maximum restraint, to restore calm and to see opportunities to return to a negotiation process.

In the consultations of the whole that followed, the members of the Security Council urged the Israelis and the Palestinians to de-escalate the situation by putting an end to violence and refraining from steps that could lead to further complications and prejudice the outcomes of any future solution. They condemned the abduction of the three Israeli students, underscoring the assistance rendered by the Palestinian authorities in the search operation. Some members criticized Israel for using disproportionate force during the search operation, for its settlement activities and for its measures to close off Gaza. The launching of rockets from Gaza was also condemned.

Europe

Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)

On 2 June, in consultations of the whole convened at its request, the Russian Federation presented a draft resolution on the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine. The members of the Security Council expressed concern about the

humanitarian situation there, but voiced diverging views on the reasons for and scale of the situation, as well as on the content and goals of the draft resolution.

On 16 June, in closed consultations, the Security Council heard, via videoconference, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator on the situation in eastern Ukraine. Noting that independent information about the situation was sparse owing to the growing insecurity and limited United Nations humanitarian presence, she said that the Secretariat had identified 19,336 internally displaced persons, including more than 11,521 from Crimea and 7,815 from the east. The provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk, in eastern Ukraine, were experiencing limited access to basic social services, including education and health care. The Organization's immediate priority was to support the Government's humanitarian response and to complement its efforts. While the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs did not yet consider that there was a humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, that situation could change were there no political settlement ending the violence.

While reiterating grave concern about the continuing increase in violence and the humanitarian situation in the country, the Security Council members agreed in general that there could be no military solution to the crisis and that the only way to resolve it remained the political process, in line with the Geneva Statement of 17 April 2014. The Russian Federation presented a second draft resolution on the situation in the east of the country.

On 17 June, the members of the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11442) in which they expressed their deepest condolences to the families of all journalists who had been killed while covering the crisis in Ukraine, including two Russian journalists killed on 17 June and an Italian photojournalist killed on 24 May along with his Russian interpreter. The members encouraged a thorough investigation of all incidents of violence involving journalists, while expressing concern about reported cases of detention and harassment of journalists covering the crisis in Ukraine.

Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)

On 24 June, in an open briefing on the recent developments, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, cited the announcement by the President of Ukraine of a peace plan and the launch of peace talks as encouraging signs towards a de-escalation of the conflict and the resolution of the crisis. The Secretary-General had welcomed the President's peace plan and his announcement of a one-week unilateral ceasefire, in addition to the fact that the armed militia groups had agreed to reciprocate the ceasefire. Overall, the ceasefire was holding. He conveyed the expectation of the Secretary-General that peace talks with representatives of the armed groups in eastern Ukraine would help to defuse tensions, while indicating that all sides should live up to the ceasefire and leave the door open for effective negotiation and mediation towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis. He assessed as a positive step the request of the President of the Russian Federation to the parliament to revoke the authorization given to him to send troops to Ukraine. At the same time, the Secretary-General remained deeply concerned that the realities on the ground were still grave and deeply worrying, given that, until

those recent political developments, fierce fighting, in particular in eastern Ukraine, had raged on, claiming hundreds of lives and injuring many more, including civilians. In addition, arms, weapons and fighters had crossed the Ukrainian border. Armed groups had continued their assault on Ukrainian forces on the night of 20/21 June. During that same period, other reports had indicated that Ukrainian forces had also continued their security operations, although it was unclear whether they were merely defending themselves against attacks. The Russian Federation had reported that shells from those exchanges had crossed its border, causing material damage. On 14 June, a Ukrainian military transport aeroplane had been shot down. The abducted monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) continued to be held captive. He concluded with an appeal to the international community to support Ukraine in overcoming the current crisis and finding a peaceful and lasting solution to the challenges facing the country.

The Security Council also heard a video briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović, who presented the third monthly report of the United Nations human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, covering the period from 7 May to 7 June. He underlined some positive progress, including legislative amendments aimed at combating discrimination and corruption and the adoption by the parliament of a memorandum of concord and peace that foresaw the adoption of a constitutional reform package. At the same time, progress in the continuing accountability processes for the violence in Maidan and for the incidents of 2 May in Odesa remained slow.

He highlighted the rapidly deteriorating situation in the east, where the most serious human rights challenges were being faced. Some 423 people had been killed, there had been an increase in arms, recruitment for armed groups was continuing and a representative of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic had recognized the presence within its ranks of armed groups of citizens of the Russian Federation. In addition, there were issues of lawlessness and abductions and detentions by armed groups. In the context of the Government's security operations, there had been an increase in reports of enforced disappearances and of excessive use of force that had led to casualties among the population. While the mission had not received reports that the population was being deliberately targeted, it was verifying allegations that the security forces could have taken measures to prevent civilian casualties.

He also described the growing humanitarian needs of the population in eastern Ukraine and the alarming situation of journalists.

Addressing the situation in Crimea, he characterized it as a legal limbo. Although Ukrainian legislation was supposed to remain in force, also in accordance with General Assembly resolution [68/262](#), legal institutions were already being required to comply with the provisions of legislation of the Russian Federation. The Crimean Tatar population was facing some concerning limitations on the enjoyment of the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association and religion.

In closing, he said that the human rights monitoring mission had to date been playing a significant role in defusing tensions and could play an equally useful role through human rights and humanitarian confidence-building measures. He also underlined that, beyond the immediate crisis response, respect for all the human rights of everyone living in Ukraine was a prerequisite for sustainable peace.

The members of the Security Council, while voicing diverging views on the developments in eastern Ukraine and the root causes of the situation, welcomed the ceasefire and expressed hope that it would have a tangible effect, in particular creating an opportunity for inclusive national dialogue. Most of them welcomed the 15-point peace plan of the President of Ukraine. Council members also welcomed the first negotiations, which would be held with the participation of representatives of the President of Ukraine, the eastern regions, OSCE and the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Kyiv. Many Council members called for the release of the OSCE observers detained by armed groups. Some of them raised the issue of illegal arms and fighters crossing the Ukrainian border and called for steps to de-escalate the situation. One member stressed that, even against the backdrop of the peace promises made by the President of Ukraine, punitive operations against entire cities with the use of heavy artillery and aviation only gathered momentum, in both intensity and scope. It was commonly reiterated that there must be a peaceful political settlement. The Permanent Representative of Ukraine, Yuriy Sergeyev, presented the President's 15-point peace plan aimed at the de-escalation of the situation and arranging negotiations with representatives of the eastern regions.

Thematic and general issues

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994

On 5 June, the Security Council held a debate to consider the reports of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (S/2014/351), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (S/2014/343) and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (S/2014/350). The Council heard relevant briefings by the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Mechanism, Theodor Meron, and the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Serge Brammertz, in addition to the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Vagn Joensen, and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Hassan Bubacar Jallow, on fulfilling the completion strategies by the Tribunals and the transition to the Mechanism.

Mr. Meron said that, since his previous briefing to the Security Council, judgements in two appeals (*Šainović et al.* and *Đorđević*) had been issued by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and two more (in the cases of *Popović et al.* and *Stanišić/Simatović*) were expected by the end of 2014. He also confirmed his previous prognosis on the delays of four trials (those of Messrs. Karadžić, Hadžić, Mladić and Šešelj) and three appeal cases (*Tolimir*, *Stanišić/Župljanin* and *Prlić et al.*) beyond the deadline established in resolution 1966 (2010). As to the Mechanism, it was becoming more self-dependent and actively seeking the establishment of new enforcement agreements with States. It was also cooperating closely with the Tribunals on the preparation and transfer of

their archives to its custody. He also recalled resolution [2150 \(2014\)](#), in which the Council had urged all States to cooperate in the arrest and prosecution of the remaining nine fugitives indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (three such cases having been transferred to the Mechanism).

Mr. Brammertz said that in the current reporting period the Prosecution had finished presenting its evidence in all remaining trials and was in the final phase of work.

Mr. Joensen said that the workload of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda remained on schedule and concentrated in the Appeals Chamber. The allocation of additional resources to the *Butare* case had helped to prevent additional delays and the judgement was expected in July 2015, as previously forecasted. The issue of relocation of 12 individuals residing in Arusha who had been acquitted or convicted and released having served their sentences remained one of the most challenging, with all relocation attempts made by the Tribunal having failed.

Mr. Jallow referred to the tracking of the three top-level fugitives, the relocation issue, work on the archives and legacy projects.

Many members of the Security Council paid tribute to the contribution of the Tribunals to international criminal justice. They also urged all States to strengthen their efforts to find the nine fugitives and bring them to trial. On the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, most Council members expressed their support for finding a solution to the relocation of acquitted persons. In that regard, some stressed that that function should be transferred to the Mechanism by the end of 2014. They raised concern about the delays in trials and appeals and urged the Tribunals to accelerate efforts aimed at the speediest completion of their functioning, in accordance with resolution [1966 \(2010\)](#).

Non-proliferation (Islamic Republic of Iran)

On 9 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2159 \(2014\)](#), by which it renewed until 9 July 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution [1929 \(2010\)](#) pertaining to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On 25 June, the Security Council received a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Australia, Gary Quinlan, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1737 \(2006\)](#), on the work of the Committee from 20 March to 24 June. He said that the Committee had held an informal meeting and two informal-informal meetings and performed its duties through the no-objection procedure. He presented the final report of the Panel of Experts ([S/2014/394](#)), saying that the Panel had noted a degree of uncertainty among some States as to whether Council resolutions remained fully in force as the talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the permanent five members of the Council and Germany entered a critical stage. He emphasized that only the Council itself could alter the sanctions regime; in the absence of a new resolution, the measures in the relevant resolutions remained in full effect. He noted the Committee's receipt of a report from a Member State on the interdiction in the Red Sea of a vessel carrying conventional arms, including rockets, mortars and ammunition, allegedly loaded on to a vessel in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. Following the inspection, the Panel had submitted its findings to the Committee, which was considering its response.

In the ensuing discussion, many members of the Security Council commended the progress made in the talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the permanent five members of the Council and Germany on the comprehensive agreement, recognized that the talks had entered into a crucial stage and expressed the hope that the diplomatic negotiations on the comprehensive agreement would achieve good results. There was broad agreement that sanctions resolutions remained in full force unless the Council decided otherwise. Attention focused in particular on the recommendations of the Panel of Experts, notably in connection with its finding that a ship intercepted by the Israeli authorities while carrying weapons had originated in an Iranian port in contravention of the embargo. There was an understanding between the members that the Panel's final report and its recommendations should be the basis for Committee members to continue discussions. Many members noted that the interdiction in the Red Sea of a large arms cache demonstrated the need for continued vigilance, saying that the Committee must actively follow up so as to take effective actions in response to that violation. One member stressed in that regard that the Panel should adopt a prudent and objective approach, especially concerning a case of alleged weapons smuggling on which there was "indirect" evidence. Some members welcomed the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the International Atomic Energy Agency, saying in particular that the country must take technical measures to guarantee the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme and that the Agency should continue to monitor and verify activities as part of the Joint Plan of Action agreed upon in Geneva on 24 November 2013.

United Nations peacekeeping operations: new trends

On 11 June, the Security Council held an open debate on new trends in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The discussion was focused on issues such as the establishment of more robust mandates, the use of new technology, including unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles, multidimensional tasks in mandates and inter-mission cooperation.

The Secretary-General, in his briefing to the Security Council, noted that two thirds of the Organization's peacekeepers were deployed in areas with significant levels of violence and peacekeeping operations were increasingly operating in complex environments featuring asymmetric and unconventional threats and where there was no peace to keep. While United Nations peacekeeping operations were gradually adapting to new demands, the groundwork should be laid for extending State authority, reinforcing efforts to ensure adequate force protection and using all possible forms of technology to ensure that peacekeeping personnel operated more safely and cost-effectively. Improvements in the speed and mechanisms of uniformed personnel notwithstanding, the United Nations continued to lack a standing reserve force capable of deploying at short notice. In that regard, there was a vital need for cohesive engagement with regional organizations to make United Nations peacekeeping operations more mobile, flexible and adaptable to respond rapidly to new and changing environments. The new Office for the Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership had enabled the Organization to better assess the deployment of uniformed personnel. He stressed that peacekeeping operations must be conducted in full compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law. He mentioned that the Organization would continue to consult legislative bodies on the deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles on the basis of the experience gained

from their deployment to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He announced that, to take stock of the evolving expectations of peacekeeping, the Secretariat had been requested to review United Nations peacekeeping operations, adding that areas warranting review included political leverage, logistical support, training, accountability, rules of engagement and technological innovations.

Members of the Security Council underscored the dramatically changing nature of environments that United Nations peacekeepers were mandated to deal with, including the appearance of new non-State actors (international terrorists and transnational organized criminal groups), the increasing complexity of tasks and other challenges. Many said that the results of implementing the robust mandates in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali were successful, not only in protecting civilians, but also in protecting peacekeepers, and welcomed in that regard the flexible and broader use of any modern technology. Others underlined the need for peacekeeping operations to be strictly in line with the Charter of the United Nations and basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping, expressing concern regarding the use of the Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo because it raised legal, technical and logistical issues, while affecting the Organization's image, in addition to the security of peacekeepers themselves, and noted that new trends in peacekeeping operations must be used on a case-by-case basis after comprehensive consideration by Member States. Some members recognized the potential benefits of inter-mission cooperation, especially when a swift response was needed to fill critical gaps. Troop-contributing countries reiterated their concern about the low reimbursement rate and underlined the need to increase it, bearing in mind the multiple security challenges that troops faced. There were numerous calls to deepen the Organization's partnership with regional and subregional organizations in conflict resolution. Members recognized that inclusive interaction within all relevant United Nations bodies on peacekeeping-related issues was able to strengthen strategic partnership and elaborate effective responses to the emerging tasks in peacekeeping, whose main advantage was its universal character and unique legitimacy.

Terrorism

On 23 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs provided a briefing to the Security Council on the issue of terrorism in the Middle East, focusing on the three main groups active in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen: the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (operating under various names), the Nusra Front and Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen. He highlighted a major new offensive launched by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant on 5 June, with support of some Sunni groups, with attacks in several Iraqi cities. Turning to the Syrian Arab Republic, he pointed out that the main forces of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant were reportedly concentrated in oil-rich and gas-rich areas of the north-east. He also referred to heavy fighting between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and armed opposition groups that had led to many casualties. Speaking about the Nusra Front, he said that it had been characterized as having a distinctly "Syrian" character and agenda. He recalled that both groups had thrived on instigating a Shi'ite-Sunni sectarian divide. Mentioning the participation of Hizbullah in the Syrian conflict as a main factor of sectarian tensions, he stressed

the need for all foreign fighters to return to their home countries. He underscored that, for all three cases, measures to combat terrorism effectively should, apart from military and security measures, include broad-based political dialogue, compromise and comprehensive socioeconomic policies.

The members of the Security Council reiterated their concern about growing terrorist threats in the region. Some called for inclusion in the political process to be promoted, while others insisted on the need to block terrorist access to weapons and sources of funding.
