

Encouraged the South African Facilitation, the Regional Peace Initiative, the African Union and other international partners to reinforce efforts in support of the early conclusion of the peace process between the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL;

Requested the Secretary-General, including through BINUB, to play a robust political role in support of the peace process;

Encouraged BINUB and the Facilitation to expedite their consultations on a common approach to deal with the issue of alleged FNL dissidents;

Encouraged the Government of Burundi to pursue its efforts regarding peace consolidation challenges.

## 6. The situation in Sierra Leone

### **Decision of 30 March 2004 (4938th meeting): resolution 1537 (2004)**

At its 4938th meeting,<sup>1</sup> on 30 March 2004, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) dated 19 March 2004.<sup>2</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the carefully calibrated exit strategy for UNAMSIL that had been approved by the Security Council after the national elections in 2002 had yielded significant benefits for the country. In particular, the extended presence of the Mission had created a stable security environment and given the Government the opportunity to consolidate the peace and promote national recovery. He noted several achievements that included the extension of State authority throughout the country, the completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the successful launching of the Special Court, the completion of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the successful resettlement of internally displaced persons and returnees. Progress had also been made in implementing the benchmarks

that were intended to build the capacity of the Government to assume responsibility for national security and recovery, and make it possible for UNAMSIL to begin disengaging without putting peace at risk. However, progress in many of those areas remained fragile, and the serious shortfalls facing the armed forces in logistics and infrastructure meant that it was not possible for the Government to assume effective responsibility for the country's external security by the time the UNAMSIL mandate was terminated in December. Therefore, on the basis of the findings of an interdepartmental assessment mission led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in Sierra Leone from 9 to 19 February 2004, the Secretary-General recommended the establishment of a residual United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone after the termination of the mandate of UNAMSIL on 31 December 2004 to facilitate a seamless transition to the follow-on mission that would provide more time to complete key residual tasks of UNAMSIL, allow the Special Court to complete its work and give the country extra space to further stabilize and recover.

The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (France) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>3</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1537 (2004), by which the Council, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General, *inter alia*:

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<sup>1</sup> During this period, in addition to the meetings covered in this chapter, the Council held a number of meetings in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B. The meetings were held on 24 March 2004 (4932nd), 15 September 2004 (5035th), and 20 December 2005 (5333rd).

<sup>2</sup> S/2004/228, submitted pursuant to resolution 1492 (2003).

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<sup>3</sup> S/2004/256.

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a period of six months, until 30 September 2004;

Decided that a residual UNAMSIL presence would remain in Sierra Leone, for an initial period of six months from 1 January 2005, reduced from the December 2004 level of 5,000 troops by 28 February 2005 to a new ceiling of 3,250 troops, 141 military observers and 80 United Nations civilian police personnel, and requested the Secretary-General to proceed with planning on the basis of the recommendations in his report;

Requested the Secretary-General to provide by 15 September 2004 a progress report, including progress made in the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, progress in resolving the conflict in Liberia, further increases in the capability of the Sierra Leone Police and armed forces, and strengthened cooperation among United Nations missions in the subregion;

Requested UNAMSIL to share its experience with the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and to carry out its mandate in close liaison with them.

**Decision of 17 September 2004 (5037th meeting): resolution 1562 (2004)**

At its 5037th meeting, on 17 September 2004, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 9 September 2004.<sup>4</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the overall gradual progress and stable political environment in Sierra Leone had continued to facilitate the consolidation of peace in the country, although many challenges remained on the path to achieving long-term stability and recovery, particularly with regard to the security sector, the restoration of the rule of law, and the promotion of human rights and sustainable development. In order to continue with the gradual drawdown of UNAMSIL and to ensure a seamless transition from the current configuration of UNAMSIL to its residual presence in Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General therefore recommended that the mandate of the Mission be extended for a period of nine months, until 30 June 2005, to contribute to the further stabilization of the country and the subregion.

The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (Spain) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>5</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1562 (2004), by which the

Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended until 30 June 2005;

Decided further that the tasks of the residual UNAMSIL presence, which should remain in Sierra Leone for an initial period of six months from 1 January 2005, as set out in paragraph 5 of resolution 1537 (2004) of 30 March 2004, should be the following:

To monitor the overall security situation, to support the Sierra Leone armed forces and police in patrolling the border and diamond-mining areas;

To support the Sierra Leone Police in maintaining internal security; to assist the Sierra Leone Police with its programme of recruitment, training and mentoring designed to strengthen further the capacity and resources of the Police;

To protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment and ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

To monitor the repatriation, reception, resettlement and reintegration of Sierra Leonean ex-combatants from abroad;

To monitor, investigate, report and promote the observance of human rights;

To disseminate information on the Mission's mandate and purpose and publicize the Government's primary responsibility for national security;

To monitor progress towards consolidation of State authority throughout the country;

Authorized the residual UNAMSIL presence to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment.

**Deliberations of 24 May 2005 (5185th meeting)**

At its 5185th meeting, on 24 May 2005, at which no statements were made, the Council heard a briefing from the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on the Court's efforts to implement its mandate in accordance with resolution 1315 (2000) and the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the discussion.

In his briefing, the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone described the progress made by the Special Court, since the inception of its operations in July 2002, in particular in the areas of personnel, infrastructure, prosecutorial activities and judicial

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<sup>4</sup> S/2004/724, submitted pursuant to resolution 1537 (2004).

<sup>5</sup> S/2004/741.

activities, and outlined the challenges ahead, with reference to the issues of funding, security and cooperation of States.<sup>6</sup>

**Decision of 30 June 2005 (5219th meeting):  
resolution 1610 (2005)**

At its 5219th meeting,<sup>7</sup> on 30 June 2005, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 26 April 2005.<sup>8</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General noted that the outstanding challenges in ensuring peace consolidation in Sierra Leone would be best addressed by the Government with the support of United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as bilateral donors, which were most suited for post-conflict capacity-building. Observing that an adjustment in the strategy of the United Nations involvement in Sierra Leone was warranted, he recommended a final extension of the mandate of UNAMSIL. The Secretary-General also indicated that, after the termination of UNAMSIL, a strong United Nations system presence was likely to be needed in Sierra Leone to continue to build peace by enhancing political and economic governance and also the national capacity for conflict prevention.

The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (France) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 29 June 2005 from the representative of Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council,<sup>9</sup> transmitting a letter from the President of Sierra Leone to the Secretary-General, in which he expressed support for a follow-on United Nations presence after the withdrawal of UNAMSIL that would help support the Government in capacity-building and preparing for the elections, as well as in the areas of peace consolidation, governance, development, human rights and security.

The President also drew attention to a draft resolution;<sup>10</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1610 (2005), by which the Council, on the basis of the report

of the Secretary-General, and acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNAMSIL should be extended for a final period of six months until 31 December 2005;

Requested the Secretary-General to finalize the necessary planning for an appropriate integrated United Nations system presence in Sierra Leone with the capacity and expertise to coordinate the activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to cooperate with the donor community, and to continue to support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone after UNAMSIL had withdrawn;

Urged the Government of Sierra Leone to continue its efforts to develop an effective police force, armed forces, penal system and independent judiciary;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 31 August 2005 (5254th meeting):  
resolution 1620 (2005)**

At its 5254th meeting, on 31 August 2005, the Council continued its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General dated 26 April 2005, and the addenda thereto.<sup>11</sup> In the second addendum, the Secretary-General recommended the establishment of a United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone.

The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (Japan) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>12</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1620 (2005), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone for 12 months beginning on 1 January 2006 with the following tasks:

(a) To assist the Government in: building the capacity of State institutions; developing a national action plan for human rights and establishing the national human rights commission; building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission; enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability of public institutions; strengthening the rule of law; strengthening the Sierra Leonean security sector; promoting a culture of peace, dialogue and participation; developing initiatives for the protection and well-being of youth, women and children;

(b) To liaise with the Sierra Leonean security sector;

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<sup>11</sup> S/2005/273 and Add.1 and 2.

<sup>12</sup> S/2005/554.

<sup>6</sup> S/PV.5185, pp. 2-6.

<sup>7</sup> At its 5186th meeting, held in private on 24 May 2005, the Council invited the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. A constructive discussion followed.

<sup>8</sup> S/2005/273 and Add.1.

<sup>9</sup> S/2005/419.

<sup>10</sup> S/2005/418.

(c) To coordinate with United Nations missions and offices and regional organizations in West Africa in dealing with cross-border challenges such as the illicit movement of small arms, human trafficking and smuggling and illegal trade in natural resources;

(d) To coordinate with the Special Court for Sierra Leone; requested the Secretary-General to continue planning for security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to keep the Council regularly informed of progress with establishing the United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone, and thereafter with the implementation of the resolution; decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 20 December 2005 (5334th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5334th meeting, on 20 December 2005, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMSIL dated 12 December 2005.<sup>13</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General provided an assessment of the situation in Sierra Leone as UNAMSIL departed, an analysis of the Mission's accomplishments and exit strategy as well as an update on preparations for the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL). The Secretary-General reported that administrative preparations for setting up UNIOSIL, which would become operational on 1 January 2006, were in the final stages, as the budget and staffing proposals, as well as logistical and security arrangements were being finalized.

All members of the Council and the representative of Sierra Leone made statements, and the Council heard a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone on the situation in the country on the eve of the departure of UNAMSIL.

In his briefing, the Special Representative analysed the Mission's exit strategy, its achievements and shortcomings, emphasizing that the Mission had completed most of the tasks assigned to it, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of over 72,000 combatants, the return of over half a million refugees, the restoration of Government authority throughout the country, and the retraining and restructuring of the country's security apparatus. He also noted that organizational preparations for the 2008 elections were ongoing and he expressed hope that the

holding of a free and credible poll would constitute a key benchmark in the achievement of long-term stability in Sierra Leone.<sup>14</sup>

In their statements, members of the Council, *inter alia*, welcomed the successful completion of the mandate of UNAMSIL; expressed support for the innovative approach applied by UNAMSIL, including its exit strategy based on benchmarks, the concept of an integrated mission and the coordination mechanism for subregional peacekeeping forces; hoped that the lessons that could be drawn from the peacekeeping experience in Sierra Leone could enrich the body of best practices for the design and management of peacekeeping operations; stressing that Sierra Leone was entering a new phase towards stabilization and sustainable peace, welcomed the establishment of UNIOSIL; recognized the importance of a cohesive and long-term approach towards Sierra Leone and urged the international community to continue to assist the country during the peacebuilding phase, particularly during the elections. With respect to the subregion, they welcomed the increased cooperation between the United Nations missions and entities as well as the regional efforts by the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union.

At the end of the discussion, the President (United Kingdom) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>15</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Commended UNAMSIL for its invaluable contribution over the last six years to democracy and prosperity;

Noted with satisfaction the innovations in the Mission's methods of operation that might prove useful best practice in making other United Nations peacekeeping operations more effective and efficient;

Encouraged Sierra Leone's development partners to continue their support;

Encouraged all States, particularly States in the subregion, to cooperate fully with the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to provide it with the necessary financial resources;

Continued to emphasize the importance of a regional approach to the countries of West Africa.

**Decision of 16 June 2006 (5467th meeting):  
resolution 1688 (2006)**

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<sup>13</sup> S/2005/777, submitted pursuant to resolution 1620 (2005).

<sup>14</sup> S/PV.5334, pp. 2-6.

<sup>15</sup> S/PRST/2005/63.

At its 5467th meeting, on 16 June 2006, the Council included in its agenda letters dated 31 March and 15 June 2006 from the representatives of the Netherlands<sup>16</sup> and the United Kingdom,<sup>17</sup> respectively, addressed to the President of the Security Council. In his letter, the representative of the Netherlands informed the President that, after receiving a letter from the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone seeking the consent of the Government of the Netherlands to hold the trial of Charles Taylor in the Netherlands, his Government had informed the Special Court that it was willing to host the trial of Charles Taylor, provided that a few conditions, outlined in a letter from the Government of the Netherlands to the Special Court for Sierra Leone dated 29 March 2006, were met. By his letter, the representative of the United Kingdom transmitted a ministerial statement of 15 June 2006 by which the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs agreed to allow former President Charles Taylor, if convicted and should circumstances require, to enter the United Kingdom to serve any sentence imposed by the Court.

A statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.<sup>18</sup> The President (Denmark) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom;<sup>19</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1688 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Took note of the intention of the President of the Special Court to authorize a Trial Chamber to exercise its functions away from the seat of the Special Court;

Welcomed the willingness of the Netherlands to host the Special Court and the willingness of the International Court of Justice to allow the use of its premises for the detention and trial of former President Taylor by the Special Court, including any appeal; requested all States to cooperate to that end, and encouraged them to ensure that any evidence or witnesses were, upon the request of the Special Court, promptly made available to the Special Court;

Requested the Secretary-General to assist, as a matter of priority, in the conclusion of all necessary legal and practical arrangements, including for the transfer of former President Taylor to the Special Court;

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<sup>16</sup> S/2006/207.

<sup>17</sup> S/2006/406.

<sup>18</sup> The representatives of Liberia and Sierra Leone were invited to participate in the meeting, but did not make statements.

<sup>19</sup> S/2006/405.

Requested the Special Court, with the assistance of the Secretary-General and relevant States, to make the trial proceedings accessible to the people of the subregion, including through video link;

Decided that the Special Court should retain exclusive jurisdiction over former President Taylor during his transfer to and presence in the Netherlands in respect of matters within the statute of the Special Court, and that the Netherlands should not exercise its jurisdiction over former President Taylor except by express agreement with the Special Court; decided further that the Government of the Netherlands should facilitate the implementation of the decision of the Special Court to conduct the trial of former President Taylor in the Netherlands;

Decided that the measures imposed by subparagraph 4 (a) of resolution 1521 (2003) of 22 December 2003 should not apply to former President Taylor for the purposes of any travel related to his trial before the Special Court, as well as any travel related to the execution of the judgment, and also to exempt from the travel ban the travel of any witnesses whose presence at the trial was required;

Decided to remain seized of the matter.

Speaking after the vote, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that, although agreeing on the need to hold a trial for Charles Taylor away from the seat of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, his country believed that, for the purposes of the resolution, action under Chapter VII of the Charter was unique and exceptional in nature and did not set a precedent for resolving similar issues.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Decision of 22 December 2006 (5608th meeting): resolution 1734 (2006)**

At its 5608th meeting, on 22 December 2006, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNIOSIL dated 28 November 2006.<sup>21</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that, although Sierra Leone continued to make progress in its peacebuilding efforts, the country still faced major challenges which needed the sustained support of the international community, especially in its efforts to address the root causes of the conflict. He added that the successful conduct of the upcoming elections in 2007 and the wide acceptance of the outcome would be important indicators of the sustainability of peace and stability in the country. He therefore recommended the extension of the mandate of UNIOSIL for a further period of six months and an increase of the mission's

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<sup>20</sup> S/PV.5467, p. 2.

<sup>21</sup> S/2006/922, submitted pursuant to resolution 1620 (2005).

strength by 5 additional officers and that of the Police Section by 10 additional police officers to ensure effective support for Sierra Leone's security sector in carrying out its election-related responsibilities.

Statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.<sup>22</sup> The President (Qatar) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>23</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1734 (2006), by which the Council, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of UNIOSIL, as outlined in resolution 1620 (2005), until 31 December 2007;

Endorsed the increase in the number of personnel of UNIOSIL recommended in paragraph 70 of the report of the Secretary-General of 28 November 2006, for the period from 1 January to 31 October 2007 in order to enhance the support provided by UNIOSIL for the elections and its ability to carry out its functions elsewhere in Sierra Leone;

Requested the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of progress made in the implementation of the mandate of UNIOSIL and the resolution.

Speaking after the vote, the representative of the United Kingdom recognized the huge steps taken by Sierra Leone since the departure of UNAMSIL, underlining in particular the work done by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the trial of former President Charles Taylor. Noting that the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections would be crucial towards building a sustainable democracy, he underlined three priority areas in the next year: first, the fight against corruption; second, the civil service reform; and third, the development of clear policies and strategies to tackle poverty and generate economic development.<sup>24</sup> The representative of the Netherlands, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, informed the Council that, after the decision of the Commission to include Sierra Leone in its agenda, discussions were undertaken by the Commission at two-week meetings on Sierra Leone. He reported on some key outcomes of the discussion, underlining that a foundation was laid for a comprehensive approach to post-conflict reconstruction and development and for a strong partnership between

the Government of Sierra Leone and the international community.<sup>25</sup>

#### Deliberations of 8 June 2007 (5690th meeting)

At its 5690th meeting, on 8 June 2007, the Council heard briefings by the President and the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Statements were made by all members of the Council and the representatives of Canada, Germany (on behalf of the European Union),<sup>26</sup> Nigeria, the Netherlands and Sierra Leone and the Deputy Secretary-General. The President (Belgium) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 7 June 2007 from the representative of Canada addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting, in that State's capacity as Chair of the Management Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Court's completion strategy and a summary of the Court's completion budget.<sup>27</sup>

In his briefing, the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone updated the Council on the status of the legal proceedings at the Special Court and its completion strategy. He informed the Council that the trial of members of the Civil Defence Force and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council had concluded and a judgement was expected shortly. On the trial of the Revolutionary United Front, he reported that the defence was currently presenting its case and a judgement was expected by June 2008. He further reported that the trial of the former President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, had commenced on 4 June, and it was projected that the trial proceedings would last until November 2008. As for the completion strategy, he stated that the Special Court for Sierra Leone was expected to conclude all its judicial activity, both in Freetown and in The Hague, by the end of 2009. On the continuing challenges facing the Special Court, he stipulated that secure funding was required, as well as cooperation of the international community to negotiate and conclude additional agreements for the enforcement of potential sentences and the relocation of witnesses.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>22</sup> The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the meeting but did not make a statement.

<sup>23</sup> S/2006/1012.

<sup>24</sup> S/PV.5608, pp. 2-3.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

<sup>26</sup> Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine aligned themselves with the statement.

<sup>27</sup> S/2007/338.

<sup>28</sup> S/PV.5690, pp. 2-4.

The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone provided the Council with an overview of the duties of his office, including its accomplishments and future role in the indictment of former President Charles Taylor for war crimes. He also echoed the appeal made by the President of the Special Court, reiterating that the Special Court needed additional resources, and urged Member States to renew their support.<sup>29</sup>

The Deputy Secretary-General commended the work of the Special Court and noted that this new model of justice would be beneficial to the people of Sierra Leone. Recalling that the Special Court had contributed to the restoration of peace and security in Sierra Leone and the region, she reiterated her request that the international community support the Special Court to ensure the successful completion of its mandate.<sup>30</sup>

In their statements, recognizing the progress made by the Court in its trials, particularly that of former President Charles Taylor in The Hague, in the fight against impunity, most speakers, *inter alia*, stressed that it was essential that the international community supported the Special Court and appealed to Member States to respond positively to the calls for financial contributions. The representative of the Russian Federation questioned whether the timeline projecting the end of the trial was realistic considering the hearings had already been delayed.<sup>31</sup> The representative of the United States stated that the Special Court represented a test of a new model of international justice that had mixed jurisdiction and was seated in the country where the crimes had been committed. Similarly, the representative of France noted that the Special Court had broken new grounds in its communication strategy, coordination with the United Nations Mission in Liberia and cooperation with the International Court of Justice and that it had served as a source of inspiration for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.<sup>32</sup> The representative of Germany, on behalf of the European Union, echoed by the representative of Belgium, noted that the Court was contributing to the development of international criminal law, by instituting landmark proceedings that investigated the use of child soldiers and forced marriages.<sup>33</sup> The representative of Sierra Leone expressed support for the Special Court, and stated that

the independence of the Court had been a critical factor in its ability to do its work and reach the people of Sierra Leone. While highlighting a few of the challenges faced by the Court, he stated that for the trial of Charles Taylor in The Hague it was important to ensure the perception of it being independent, as it was taking place on the premises of the International Criminal Court, and that the people of Sierra Leone had the access that they had come to expect to trials being conducted on their behalf.<sup>34</sup>

**Decision of 28 June 2007 (5708th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the Council's 5708th meeting, on 28 June 2007, no statements were made. The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (Belgium) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>35</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reiterated its strong support for the Special Court;

Particularly noted the contribution of the Special Court to strengthening stability in Sierra Leone and the subregion and bringing an end to impunity; welcomed the commencement of the trial of Charles Taylor on 4 June 2007 in The Hague following the adoption of resolution 1688 (2006);

Acknowledged the Special Court's progress towards achieving its completion strategy;

Emphasized the vital need for further pledges of voluntary contributions in order to allow the Special Court to complete its mandate in a timely manner, and asked all State Members of the United Nations to consider making such pledges;

Urged States to consider supporting the Special Court by entering into appropriate arrangements with the Special Court for witness relocation and enforcement of sentences;

Recognized that further arrangements would be needed to address residual matters after trials and appeals were completed, including issues arising from long-term enforcement of sentences for convicted persons, the future trial of any indictees remaining at large, witness protection and the preservation of the archives of the Special Court;

Commended the important outreach activities of the Special Court in bringing its judicial work to the attention of the people of Sierra Leone.

**Decision of 21 December 2007 (5813th meeting):  
resolution 1793 (2007)**

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<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8 (United States); and p. 9 (France).

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16 (Belgium); and p. 21 (Germany).

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<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 16-18.

<sup>35</sup> S/PRST/2007/23.

At its 5804th meeting, on 14 December 2007, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on UNIOSIL dated 4 December 2007.<sup>36</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General, on the basis of the findings of a technical assessment mission by the Department for Peacekeeping Operations as well as a request for further assistance from the United Nations by the President of Sierra Leone,<sup>37</sup> recommended an extension of the mandate of UNIOSIL for a final period of nine months to enable it to, *inter alia*, assist the new Government in: supporting the 2008 local elections and constitutional reform; facilitating the engagement of Sierra Leone with the Peacebuilding Commission; strengthening the security sector; assisting in building the capacity of critical State institutions, supporting the reform of the judicial sector; and addressing the root causes of the conflict, as identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Secretary-General also recommended that UNIOSIL be replaced by a leaner integrated political office, which would focus on carrying forward the peace consolidation process, mobilizing international donor support, supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund and completing any residual tasks left over from the mandate of UNIOSIL, in particular promoting national reconciliation and supporting the constitutional reform process.

The Council heard a briefing by the representative of the Netherlands in his capacity as Chairman of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission,<sup>38</sup> who reported that the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone had adopted a peacebuilding cooperation framework on 12 December 2007. He reported that the framework constituted a major milestone for Sierra Leone as it would guide the work of both the Commission and the Government over the next three years in addressing the challenges and threats most critical to sustaining and consolidating peace in Sierra Leone. Although recognizing that the primary responsibility to address such challenges rested with the people and the Government of Sierra Leone, he called on the Council and the international community to continue supporting

the work of Peacebuilding Commission and the implementation of the framework.<sup>39</sup>

At its 5813th meeting, on 21 December 2007, the Council again included in its agenda the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General. The representative of Sierra Leone made a statement. The President (Italy) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom;<sup>40</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1793 (2007), by which the Council, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of UNIOSIL, as outlined in resolution 1620 (2005), until 30 September 2008;

Requested the Secretary-General to submit by 31 January 2008, and for the Council's consideration, a completion strategy for UNIOSIL including at least a 20 per cent reduction in staff numbers by 31 March 2008, a continued mission at 80 per cent of the current strength until 30 June 2008, and the termination of the UNIOSIL mandate by 30 September 2008;

Expressed its intention that, on the expiration of its mandate, UNIOSIL should be replaced by a United Nations integrated political office to focus on carrying forward the peacebuilding process, mobilizing international donor support, supporting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and Fund, and completing any residual tasks left over from the UNIOSIL mandate;

And acting under Chapter VII of the Charter:

Decided to exempt from the measures imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 1171 (1998) the travel of any witnesses whose presence at trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone was required.

Speaking after the vote, the representative of Sierra Leone expressed his country's gratitude to the Security Council for responding positively to the request for the extension of the presence of UNIOSIL and also to the recommendation

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<sup>39</sup> S/PV.5804, pp. 2-3.

<sup>40</sup> S/2007/748.

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<sup>36</sup> S/2007/704, submitted pursuant to resolution 1734 (2006).

<sup>37</sup> S/2007/659.

<sup>38</sup> The representative of Sierra Leone was invited to participate in the meeting but did not make a statement.



of the Secretary-General for a new office to replace UNIOSIL at the end of September 2008.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> S/PV.5813, pp. 2-3.

## 7. The situation in the Great Lakes region

### **Deliberations of 27 October 2004 (5065th meeting)**

At its 5065th meeting, on 27 October 2004, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. No Council members made statements during the meeting.

In his briefing, the Special Representative outlined the steps forward with respect to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and the first summit to be held in the context of the Conference. Organized jointly by the United Nations and the African Union, the objective of the Conference was the adoption of a regional stability, security and development pact.

The Special Representative noted that the preparatory regional process preceding the Conference had yielded several results. There had been an increase in the number of members in the Conference, which now consisted of 11 core members.<sup>1</sup> The enlargement was important for ensuring the consistency and unity of the Conference. A number of priority areas had also emerged as a result of the process, including peace and security, governance and democracy, economic development, regional integration and humanitarian and social issues.

In concluding, he stated that following the Dar es Salaam summit on 19 and 20 November, an inter-ministerial committee would be set up, tasked with creating a programme of action and a protocol to implement the Declaration adopted at the summit. In the light of that protocol and programme of action, the stage would be set for the Nairobi summit to be held in 2005.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The members now included Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, the Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

<sup>2</sup> S/PV.5065, pp. 2-4.

### **Decision of 27 January 2006 (5359th meeting): resolution 1653 (2006)**

At its 5359th meeting, held at the ministerial level on 27 January 2006, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region" and a letter dated 18 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania addressed to the Secretary-General.<sup>3</sup> All Council members made statements, as did 30 other Member States.<sup>4</sup> Statements were also made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, and the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid of the European Commission.<sup>5</sup>

The President (United Republic of Tanzania) drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Secretary-General dated 25 January 2006, regarding the preparations for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.<sup>6</sup> She also drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution.<sup>7</sup>

During the debate, most speakers urged unshakable commitment to the Great Lakes region, stressing that the peace processes would remain fragile for some time, and that the promise of a strong Central Africa risked relapsing into conflict without steadfast international support and economic assistance. At the same time, many speakers called for enhanced cooperation between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in

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<sup>3</sup> S/2006/27.

<sup>4</sup> The speakers were the representatives of Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria (on behalf of the European Union), Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

<sup>5</sup> S/PV.5359.

<sup>6</sup> S/2006/46.

<sup>7</sup> S/2006/51.