

19. The situation in Afghanistan

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 13 meetings in connection with the situation in Afghanistan, adopting four resolutions and one presidential statement. The Council focused on the gradual transition to full Afghan responsibility for providing security, governance and development. It considered the holding of parliamentary elections as well as the work and the mandates of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations-authorized International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

The Council extended the mandate of UNAMA twice for periods of one year each.³⁸⁸ Under Chapter VII of the Charter, it also twice extended the authorization of ISAF for a period of one year each time, including authorization for the Member States participating in ISAF to take all necessary measures to fulfil its mandate.³⁸⁹

By resolution 1988 (2011), the Council established a new sanctions regime, requested all States to take measures in connection with any individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban and established a separate committee to oversee measures imposed in connection with the Taliban. By resolution 1989 (2011), the Council changed the scope of the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) to focus exclusively on Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.³⁹⁰ The Council also went on a mission to Afghanistan from 21 to 24 June 2010.³⁹¹

³⁸⁸ Resolutions 1917 (2010) and 1974 (2011). For information on the mandate of UNAMA, see part X, sect. II, "Political and peacebuilding missions".

³⁸⁹ Resolutions 1943 (2010) and 2011 (2011). For information on the mandate of ISAF, see part VII, sect. IV, "Measures to maintain or restore international peace and security in accordance with Article 42 of the Charter".

³⁹⁰ For more information, see part I, sect. 34, "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".

³⁹¹ For more information on Security Council missions, see part I, sect. 36, and part VI, sect. II, with regard to investigation of disputes and fact-finding.

6 January 2010 to 19 December 2011: transition and related political developments

Five international conferences relating to Afghanistan were held between January 2010 and December 2011, in London, Kabul, Lisbon, Istanbul and Bonn. The international community and Afghanistan jointly decided gradually to transition to Afghan authorities responsibility for security, governance and development. The Council received nine briefings on the political developments in relation to the transition.

On 6 January 2010, in their joint briefing to the Council, both the Secretary-General and his Special Representative underscored the immense challenges faced by Afghanistan, in the light of deteriorating security and a more demanding political environment. The Secretary-General stated that Afghanistan was at a critical juncture, with difficult elections, violence and doubts about current strategies of both the Government and the international community all combining to produce further uncertainty.³⁹² The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA cautioned that negative trends, namely the growing impatience of public opinion in the donor and troop-contributing countries, increasing frustration among the Afghan public and the difficulties experienced by international and Afghan forces in putting the insurgency on the defensive, would become unmanageable if they were not reversed.³⁹³ Referring to the statement by the Secretary-General, he said that the transition strategy must include, inter alia, the systematic build-up of civilian institutions. He stressed that the strategy should be politically and not militarily driven, and reminded the Council of its consensus that the process of Afghanization should be accelerated. Joined by other speakers, the Special Representative viewed the conferences to be held in London in January and in Kabul in July 2010 as critical opportunities to agree on a politically driven strategy in which Afghan ownership and Afghan capacity stood at the centre of all activities.³⁹⁴

³⁹² S/PV.6255, pp. 3-4.

³⁹³ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

³⁹⁴ Ibid., p. 5 (Special Representative); p. 9 (Afghanistan); pp. 18-19 (United Kingdom); p. 22 (France), p. 23 (Japan); pp. 24-25 (Nigeria); p. 26 (Mexico); p. 30 (Australia); p. 34 (Norway); and p. 35 (European Union).

In his briefing to the Council on 18 March 2010, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations underlined the consensus reached between Afghanistan and its international partners at the London Conference on Afghanistan, held on 28 January 2010, concerning the need for transition to greater Afghan responsibility and an increasingly supporting role for the international community. In the midst of heightened military operations, the international community was faced with a crowded political calendar, in particular the forthcoming consultative Peace Jirga, the Kabul conference in July and the National Assembly elections in September.³⁹⁵ Echoing the Under-Secretary-General's statement, the representative of Afghanistan said that Afghanistan would be the priority of his Government in 2010, which implied that Afghans would take the lead, with the support of the international community, in such areas as improving security across the country, promoting reconciliation, building capacity, rooting out corruption, encouraging participation, promoting justice and the rule of law and conducting electoral reform.³⁹⁶ Speakers expressed their support for Afghan leadership and ownership of the transition process.³⁹⁷ Stating that the transfer of responsibilities to the Afghan authorities should not be understood as an exit strategy, the representative of Turkey stressed that the civilian presence of the international community should be strengthened.³⁹⁸ His view was shared by the representative of Italy, who noted the central role of civilian efforts in the overall international strategy for the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan.³⁹⁹

On 30 June 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported to the Council that UNAMA was focusing on a three-plus-one initiative, which covered elections, internal and regional dialogue, constructive regional engagement and aid coherence.⁴⁰⁰ As one way to promote reintegration and reconciliation, speakers welcomed the holding of the

consultative Peace Jirga in early June.⁴⁰¹ The representative of Afghanistan added that many of the recommendations contained in the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, the outcome document of the Peace Jirga, were being implemented by his Government, and a high-level council was being created to oversee the implementation.⁴⁰² Noting the call by the Peace Jirga for the removal of the names of the Afghan opposition from the list established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), the representatives of Austria and the Russian Federation underlined the principles governing the delisting: individuals should convincingly renounce violence, lay down arms, break ties with Al-Qaida and fully respect the Afghan constitution.⁴⁰³

On 29 September 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General conveyed to the Council the need for the international community to support the rollout of national priority programmes and public finance management reform identified at the Kabul conference of 2 July 2010 as the priorities for future work.⁴⁰⁴ The representative of Afghanistan stated that the Kabul process adopted by the participants in the Conference focused on increased Afghan leadership across the board. He said that the 23 national priority programmes of Afghanistan had also been presented during the meeting, including its national security policy and its national reconciliation initiative, all of which were endorsed by the international community. In the area of security, he stated that his country would be taking the lead in combat operations in volatile provinces by 2011 and would meet its security obligations by 2014. Turning to the socioeconomic agenda, he welcomed the international community's decision to channel 50 per cent of donor assistance through the national budget of Afghanistan by January 2012. Noting the complementary role of President Hamid Karzai's reintegration and reconciliation initiative with respect to military efforts, he informed the Security Council that the High Peace Council had been established in September 2010 by his Government

³⁹⁵ S/PV.6287, p. 2.

³⁹⁶ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

³⁹⁷ Ibid., p. 7 (Turkey); p. 13 (United States); p. 16 (United Kingdom); p. 22 (Gabon); and p. 29 (Norway).

³⁹⁸ Ibid., p. 7.

³⁹⁹ Ibid., p. 32.

⁴⁰⁰ S/PV.6351, p. 3.

⁴⁰¹ Ibid., p. 9 (Afghanistan); p. 9 (China); p. 12 (Japan); p. 17 (Austria); p. 21 (Uganda); p. 23 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 25 (Mexico); p. 26 (Canada); p. 28 (Italy); p. 29 (Germany); p. 29 (European Union); and p. 33 (Pakistan).

⁴⁰² Ibid., p. 9 (Afghanistan).

⁴⁰³ Ibid., p. 18 (Austria); and p. 22 (Russian Federation).

⁴⁰⁴ S/PV.6394, p. 5.

to oversee the implementation of the reintegration and reconciliation initiative.⁴⁰⁵

Speakers expressed their support for the establishment of the High Peace Council and for the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme formulated by the Government of Afghanistan.⁴⁰⁶ The representative of Japan welcomed the launching of the peace and reintegration trust fund.⁴⁰⁷ Speakers also underscored the importance of reviewing and updating the Consolidated List created pursuant to resolution [1267 \(1999\)](#) in promoting reintegration and bolstering peace and security in Afghanistan.⁴⁰⁸

On 22 December 2010, reporting to the Council on the attack on the United Nations centre at Herat on 23 October 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General warned of a tense security environment in the next few months. He also informed the Council of the plans of UNAMA to increase activities in assisting in the transition in the areas of capacity-building, support for Afghan ownership of Afghan territory and realignment of bilateral and multilateral aid in line with the priorities set by the Afghan authorities.⁴⁰⁹

Remarking that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit, held in Lisbon on 20 November 2010, was a milestone towards reassuring an enduring partnership between Afghanistan and NATO, the representative of Afghanistan stated that a framework had been adopted at the summit for the transition to increased Afghan leadership over the next four years through a province-by-province approach. He stated that the transition would be launched in 2011 and that practical preparations were under way to that end, with the international partners redefining their mission with a view to sustained and expedited recruitment, training and resourcing of the Afghan national army and police. In reference to the three main components of the Kabul process, security, development

and governance, he reported that overall security had improved and the zone of security had expanded. In addition, Afghan security forces were exerting greater presence and control in areas previously held by enemy combatants. In the areas of development and governance, he reported that 95 per cent of planned activities for creating an efficient and effective Government had been completed since the Kabul Conference in July 2010.⁴¹⁰ Speakers welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Kabul process.⁴¹¹

On 17 March 2011, in his briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General welcomed the transition in security and to full Afghan ownership and leadership. He stated that UNAMA was contributing to the civilian transition and that the transitioning provinces were to be given incentives and not neglected after the transition had taken place. He stated that the ongoing military and civilian surge needed to be matched by an enhanced diplomatic surge, and also called for a surge to protect civilians owing to the spike in civilian casualty rates in 2010. Regarding institution-building, he informed the Council that Parliament was inaugurated on 26 January by President Karzai. A minority candidate had been elected as the leader of the Wolesi Jirga, the Lower House of the Parliament, which showed that Afghans could find their own solutions and meet various ethnic, factional and regional needs. In reference to peace, integration and regional issues, he reported that an important meeting of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan, held at the beginning of March 2011, had endorsed the High Peace Council established in September 2010, and had called for a Kabul-based approach to peace and reconciliation initiatives.⁴¹²

On 6 July 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported to the Council that July 2011 would see the start of the phased transition in seven areas, provinces and cities, as well as implementation of the gradual redeployment of international forces, in particular those of the United States, as announced by President Barack Obama.⁴¹³

⁴⁰⁵ Ibid., pp. 6-7.

⁴⁰⁶ Ibid., p. 11 (United Kingdom); p. 15 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 16 (Nigeria); p. 18 (Brazil); p. 19 (Austria); p. 20 (China); p. 22 (Lebanon); p. 25 (Canada); p. 27 (Germany); p. 29 (New Zealand); p. 30 (Pakistan); and p. 35 (Australia).

⁴⁰⁷ Ibid., p. 8.

⁴⁰⁸ Ibid., p. 7 (Afghanistan); p. 12 (France); p. 14 (United States); p. 15 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 19 (Austria); and p. 21 (Mexico).

⁴⁰⁹ [S/PV.6464](#), pp. 2-3.

⁴¹⁰ Ibid., pp. 5-7.

⁴¹¹ Ibid., p. 19 (Brazil); p. 31 (Canada); and p. 34 (European Union).

⁴¹² [S/PV.6497](#), pp. 2 and 5.

⁴¹³ [S/PV.6574](#), p. 2.

On 29 September 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported to the Council the tragic death of Mr. Rabbani, the former President and the chairman of the High Peace Council. He underlined the importance of ensuring a proper and rigorous vetting mechanism when implementing the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme.⁴¹⁴ The representative of Pakistan pointed out that the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) had delisted from the Consolidated List the person who had allegedly assassinated Mr. Rabbani.⁴¹⁵ The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, noting the increasing positive progress in the development of both the Afghan National Police and the Afghan National Army, reported that the transition was moving forward. He also referred to two crucial meetings, one to be held in Istanbul on 2 November and the other in Bonn on 5 December 2011, as an opportunity to reassure the Government of Afghanistan and its people that the international community would be with them in the long run.⁴¹⁶ The representative of India stated that for peace, stability and security in Afghanistan, it was imperative that the transition be linked to the realities on the ground rather than rigid timetables, and pointed out that the international community, in its hurry to withdraw from a combat role in Afghanistan, ignored that at its own peril.⁴¹⁷

On 19 December 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported to the Council that he had attended the International Afghanistan Conference on Afghanistan and the International Community: from Transition to the Transformation Decade, held in Bonn on 5 December, which had reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to Afghanistan beyond 2014. Highlighting the crucial role of the United Nations in Afghanistan as elaborated in the declaration of the Conference, he informed the Council about the three future priorities underscored by the Secretary-General during meetings on the sidelines of the Conference: to provide security and development assistance; to promote and support an inclusive reconciliation process led by Afghans; and to continue to promote human rights. He stated that the transition of security responsibilities was proceeding apace, with the second

tranche of areas to be handed over to Afghan security as approved by President Karzai at the end of November.⁴¹⁸ At the same meeting, a presidential statement was adopted, in which the Council, inter alia, welcomed the declaration in Bonn that the process of transition, to be completed by the end of 2014, should be followed by a decade of transformation (2015-2024), in which Afghanistan would consolidate its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable State in service of its people.⁴¹⁹

18 March 2010 to 19 December 2011: renewal of UNAMA mandate

On 18 March 2010, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, in his briefing, told the Council that the work of UNAMA as an integrated mission and that of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes must be continued, sustained and strengthened when necessary.⁴²⁰ Concurring that UNAMA needed to be strengthened, speakers expressed their support for the extension of the Mission's mandate for another 12 months.⁴²¹ In particular, some speakers suggested that UNAMA focus on coordinating international humanitarian aid, supporting national electoral capacities and using its good offices to support the implementation of Afghan reconciliation programmes.⁴²² The representative of Australia stated that a renewed UNAMA mandate should also address the call for a better coordinated and civilian effort in Afghanistan to improve the impact of international civilian assistance, and the need for a more rigorous alignment of international assistance with clearly identified Afghan priorities, with UNAMA in the primary coordinating role in those activities.⁴²³ The representative of Germany stated that the emphasis on Afghan ownership and the concept of transition of responsibility should be adequately reflected in the

⁴¹⁴ S/PV.6625, pp. 2-3.

⁴¹⁵ Ibid., p. 31.

⁴¹⁶ Ibid., pp. 2-3.

⁴¹⁷ Ibid., p. 21.

⁴¹⁸ S/PV.6690, pp. 2-4.

⁴¹⁹ S/PRST/2011/22.

⁴²⁰ S/PV.6287, p. 4.

⁴²¹ Ibid., p. 6 (Afghanistan); p. 7 (Turkey); p. 10 (China); p. 12 (Austria); p. 20 (Nigeria); p. 22 (Japan); p. 23 (Gabon); p. 24 (European Union); p. 26 (Germany); p. 29 (Norway); p. 31 (Australia); p. 33 (Italy); and p. 34 (New Zealand).

⁴²² Ibid., p. 8 (Mexico); p. 9 (Brazil); p. 12 (France); and p. 15 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

⁴²³ Ibid., p. 31.

resolution of the Council and the mandate of UNAMA.⁴²⁴

On 22 March 2010, the Council adopted resolution 1917 (2010), in which it, *inter alia*, extended the mandate of UNAMA until 23 March 2011 and identified areas where UNAMA would lead the international civilian effort.⁴²⁵ Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that it reflected the concern of the Council regarding the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan due to the growing terrorist activities of the Taliban and Al-Qaida. In that regard, his delegation noted a growing link between the terrorists in that country and drug traffickers. He noted with concern the information in the media about the intention of ISAF to cease destroying poppy fields in Afghanistan. He stressed that ISAF and the anti-terrorist coalition must continue actively and decisively to address the drug threat emanating from Afghanistan and to cooperate with the Government of Afghanistan on the issue. He warned that any attempt to bring the Taliban on board would be a grave mistake.⁴²⁶

On 17 March 2011, in a gesture of respect for the desire of the Afghan authorities for national sovereignty, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General requested that the representative of Afghanistan be allowed to address the Council before him. The representative of Afghanistan presented three requests from his Government concerning the UNAMA mandate in the light of the transition: (a) a comprehensive review of the Mission's mandate before the Bonn conference at the end of 2011; (b) greater coherence, coordination and efficiency in the work of the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies operating in Afghanistan towards "One United Nations"; and (c) reshaping the mandate of UNAMA around the transition. To that end, his Government proposed adjustments to the mandate of UNAMA regarding the Afghan leadership and the supporting role of UNAMA in the transition process, which ranged from the emphasis on the Mission's responsibility, as the co-chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, to promote coherence in the international community's support for the Afghan-defined and Afghan-led development strategy to the

coordinating role of UNAMA in delivering humanitarian assistance.⁴²⁷ The Special Representative of the Secretary-General saw the review of the UNAMA mandate as a good opportunity to streamline the activities of UNAMA and the United Nations family in a coherent effort to deliver as one.⁴²⁸ Stressing that transition did not mean reduced international engagement, the representative of Germany was concerned that the technical capacity for the successful implementation of the Government's national priority programme was not yet in place. He called on UNAMA and other partners to redouble their efforts in support of the Government, in particular in regions and areas where early transition had been planned. Underlining the responsibility and commitment of the international community to empower Afghan institutions, he admitted that the amount of goodwill of development partners could also contribute to undermining Afghan solutions to Afghan problems. In that context, he supported a review of United Nations assistance in the perspective of the next mandate renewal in March 2012, as soon as the Council was in a position to evaluate, on an informed basis, first experiences with transition and reconciliation.⁴²⁹

On 22 March 2011, the Council adopted resolution 1974 (2011), by which, *inter alia*, it extended the mandate of UNAMA until 23 March 2012, identified the priority areas where UNAMA should continue to lead international civilian efforts, and requested a comprehensive review of the mandated activities by the end of 2011, including first experiences with the transition.

On 19 December 2011, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported to the Council that the process of reviewing the Mission's mandated activities and United Nations support in Afghanistan was under way. The inter-agency team appointed by the Secretary-General to conduct the review would compile their findings and recommendations to inform the Council's discussions related to renewal of the mandate in March 2012.⁴³⁰ Recognizing the crucial role that UNAMA would continue to play in the transition process, as highlighted in the Istanbul and Bonn conferences, speakers expressed interest in the upcoming review

⁴²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 26.

⁴²⁵ For more information on UNAMA, see part X, sect. II, "Political and peacebuilding missions".

⁴²⁶ S/PV.6290, pp. 2-3.

⁴²⁷ S/PV.6497, pp. 2-4.

⁴²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

⁴²⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8.

⁴³⁰ S/PV.6690, p. 5.

findings.⁴³¹ The representative of China expressed the hope that the review of the mandate would strengthen the central role of the United Nations in coordinating the efforts of the international community to assist Afghanistan and that the United Nations would strengthen coordination with Afghanistan and listen to and respect its views in the review process.⁴³²

6 January 2010 to 22 December 2010: parliamentary elections

On 6 January 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General informed the Council that the Independent Electoral Commission had announced that the parliamentary elections would take place on 22 May, in accordance with the Constitution. Noting the technical challenges to keeping that timeline, he suggested that the elections could be held later that year without violating the relevant laws.⁴³³ However, the representative of Afghanistan felt that the timeline should be upheld because any suggestion that the elections be postponed ignored the constitutional requirements and would damage the integrity of the process.⁴³⁴ Several speakers noted that the electoral process should be reformed ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections.⁴³⁵ The representative of France stressed that the elections should be held in conditions that ensured a free and democratic choice.⁴³⁶

In his briefing to the Council on 18 March 2010, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations stated that the upcoming National Assembly elections could be another milestone in highlighting the primacy of the constitutional imperative in leading Afghanistan's future, as well as the agreed common strategy of transitioning to increased Afghan ownership and leadership. On the basis of the commitment on electoral reform agreed with the Government of Afghanistan at the London Conference, he stressed the need for collective support to the Government in progressing on that reform

agenda.⁴³⁷ Expressing their general support for electoral reform, several representatives emphasized that lessons should be drawn from the presidential elections of 2009 to ensure the credibility and transparency of the forthcoming parliamentary elections.⁴³⁸ In that regard, the representative of Mexico urged the appointment of a new electoral complaints commission, the adoption of measures to assert the independence of the Independent Electoral Commission, the launch of an investigation of alleged fraud in the most recent elections and the guaranteed participation of women and minorities.⁴³⁹ Stressing the crucial importance of undertaking all reforms in a transparent manner, the representative of Canada noted with concern reports that changes had been recently made to the electoral law that might decrease the independence of the Electoral Complaints Commission.⁴⁴⁰

On 30 June 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General informed the Council that UNAMA had proposed and, with the cooperation of the international community in Kabul, had received approval for implementation guidelines for the elections, resolving an institutional stalemate between the two institutions of the presidency and the Loya Jirga, which could have blocked the election process. He stated that the effort had produced three results: first, the creation of a new electoral chairmanship and a new electoral aid team; secondly, the presence of international commissioners, whose consensus was needed for the Electoral Complaints Commission to take a decision, and thirdly, a guarantee of sixty-eight seats in the Afghan Parliament for women. While warning that security would be the main challenge to the elections, he affirmed that elections were moving ahead in the right direction, with 30,000 new voters registered and 12.5 million people expected to vote.⁴⁴¹ The representative of Afghanistan also confirmed that the Afghan-led parliamentary election process was well under way, with 2,577 candidates, including 406 women, standing for 249 seats.⁴⁴²

⁴³¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14 (United States); p. 18 (France); p. 21 (United Kingdom); and pp. 31-32 (European Union).

⁴³² *Ibid.*, p. 20.

⁴³³ *S/PV.6255*, p. 7.

⁴³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁴³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 11 (Turkey); p. 13 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 14 (Austria); p. 18 (United States); p. 20 (Brazil); p. 22 (France); p. 27 (Canada); p. 30 (Australia); p. 33 (Norway); and p. 34 (European Union).

⁴³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

⁴³⁷ *S/PV.6287*, p. 3.

⁴³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 8 (Mexico); p. 12 (France); p. 14 (United States); p. 17 (United Kingdom); p. 18 (Lebanon); p. 22 (Japan); p. 25 (European Union); pp. 31-32 (Australia); and p. 33 (Italy).

⁴³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

⁴⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 24.

⁴⁴¹ *S/PV.6351*, pp. 3-4.

⁴⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 8.

On 29 September 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported to the Council that the holding of the elections was an achievement in itself, while the outcome of the elections remained to be seen. He noted a significant improvement in the work of the Independent Electoral Commission in the elections compared with the presidential elections of 2009, despite immense security and logistical challenges. He stated that 3,900 complaints had been received thus far and that a decision on the final outcome of the elections was likely to be taken around 30 October.⁴⁴³ The representative of Afghanistan said that the elections were a major victory for democracy in Afghanistan.⁴⁴⁴

On 22 December 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General informed the Council that with the certification of all results by the Independent Electoral Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission on 30 November 2010, the electoral process was procedurally concluded. He welcomed the decision by President Karzai to inaugurate the new Parliament by the end of January 2011.⁴⁴⁵ Praising the certification of the election results, several speakers commended the work of the two electoral

commissions.⁴⁴⁶ While recognizing that the electoral bodies had been strengthened since the presidential elections in 2009, the representative of Mexico highlighted the challenges faced by Afghanistan in the area of institutional capacity-building, as demonstrated by the high number of irregularities and complaints submitted to the Electoral Complaints Commission. He pointed out that it was important to plan an electoral reform for the long term, with a view to strengthening the capacities of the electoral authorities.⁴⁴⁷ Several speakers opined that the successful holding of the elections should serve as a foundation to press forward longer-term electoral reform.⁴⁴⁸

**13 October 2010 and 12 October 2011:
extension of the mandate of ISAF**

In its resolutions 1943 (2010) and 2011 (2011), adopted on 13 October 2010 and 12 October 2011, respectively, the Council decided to extend the authorization of ISAF for a period of one year each time.

⁴⁴³ S/PV.6394, pp. 3-4.

⁴⁴⁴ Ibid., p. 6.

⁴⁴⁵ S/PV.6464, pp. 4-5.

⁴⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 8 (Turkey); p. 8 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 11 (United Kingdom); p. 12 (Japan); p. 14 (Nigeria); p. 21 (Austria); p. 22 (Gabon); p. 31 (Canada); and p. 33 (European Union).

⁴⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 16.

⁴⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 9 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 11 (United Kingdom); p. 12 (Japan); p. 14 (Nigeria); p. 21 (Austria); p. 23 (United States); p. 33 (Australia); and p. 33 (European Union).

Meetings: the situation in Afghanistan

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6255 6 January 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2009/674)		Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	
6287 18 March 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2010/127)		11 Member States ^d	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Chargé d'affaires of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2010-2011

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6290 22 March 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2010/127)	Draft resolution submitted by Turkey (S/2010/147)	Afghanistan		Turkey, Russian Federation	Resolution 1917 (2010) 15-0-0
6351 30 June 2010	Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 40 of resolution 1917 (2010) (S/2010/318) Letter dated 14 June 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/325)		Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Pakistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6394 29 September 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2010/463)		Afghanistan (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6395 13 October 2010		Draft resolution submitted by Turkey (S/2010/518)	Afghanistan			Resolution 1943 (2010) 15-0-0
6464 22 December 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2010/630)		Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Pakistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6497 17 March 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2011/120)	Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan concerning the new mandate of UNAMA (S/2011/118, annex)	Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union		
6500 22 March 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2011/120)	Draft resolution submitted by Germany (S/2011/147) Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan concerning the new mandate of UNAMA (S/2011/118, annex)	Afghanistan		Afghanistan	Resolution 1974 (2011) 15-0-0
6574 6 July 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2011/381)		Afghanistan, Canada, Japan, Pakistan, Turkey	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6625 29 September 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2011/590)		Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6629 12 October 2011		Draft resolution submitted by Germany (S/2011/630)	Afghanistan			Resolution 2011 (2011) 15-0-0

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6690 19 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2011/772)		11 Member States ^b	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	S/PRST/2011/22

^a Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan and Poland.

^b Afghanistan (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), Australia, Canada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan and Turkey.

20. Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held nine meetings and adopted three resolutions and one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council”.⁴⁴⁹ At the meetings, senior officials of the Secretariat briefed the Council on the progress of the peace process in Nepal and the work of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN). The mandate of UNMIN was renewed three times in 2010, and was terminated on 15 January 2011 after a four-year engagement.⁴⁵⁰

15 and 21 January 2010: progress in the peace process

On 15 January 2010, the Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal and Head of the United Nations Mission in Nepal reported on positive developments in the peace process that had been

initiated with the signing of the 12-point understanding in 2005 and solidified in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement a year later. Positive developments included the establishment of a high-level political mechanism to deal with outstanding peace process issues, including the drafting of a new constitution and the rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel. She noted, however, that growing political instability and the lack of a credible and independent national monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of the Agreement could undermine the overall peace process. In that regard, she encouraged the parties to agree, within the Special Committee established to address the supervision, integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel, on the modalities of integration of army personnel into the security forces and on rehabilitation. She stressed that the major peace process actors needed to establish a timeline with clear benchmarks for the withdrawal of UNMIN.⁴⁵¹

In resolution [1909 \(2010\)](#) of 21 January 2010, noting that the deadline for the promulgation of the new democratic constitution was 28 May 2010, the Council welcomed the understanding between the

⁴⁴⁹ [S/2006/920](#).

⁴⁵⁰ Resolutions [1909 \(2010\)](#), [1921 \(2010\)](#) and [1939 \(2010\)](#). For more information on the mandate of UNMIN, see part X, sect. II, “Political and peacebuilding missions”.

⁴⁵¹ [S/PV.6260](#), pp. 2-5.