

34. Security Council mission

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council dispatched five missions to the field. The destinations of the missions included several African countries¹⁰⁵⁵ and Haiti, Yemen and Timor-Leste. The missions consisted of representatives of all members of the Council. Summaries of the briefings are presented below in chronological order and by region.¹⁰⁵⁶

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Haiti

On 28 February 2012, the Council heard a briefing by the representative of the United States, leader of the Council's mission to Haiti from 13 to 16 February 2012. She reported on the meetings held with the President, Prime Minister, Members of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies and with representatives of the private sector and civil society. She said that the Council had seen that Haiti's enormous challenges in respect of, *inter alia*, security, post-earthquake reconstruction and the political process required the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders. She noted that, while many Haitians acknowledged that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) played a necessary role in maintaining security and stability, they also shared a desire to see the Mission leave eventually with strengthened Haitian institutions assuming its responsibilities. She said that the cholera epidemic and allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by some Mission personnel had eroded support and undermined the work of the Mission. On behalf of the Council's mission, she stated that she was deeply troubled by those allegations and expected the United Nations to take measures to prevent further incidents and to ensure that those responsible were held accountable.¹⁰⁵⁷

¹⁰⁵⁵ Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

¹⁰⁵⁶ For more information on the composition and reports of the missions, see part VI, sect. II, "Investigation of disputes and fact-finding", table 2.

¹⁰⁵⁷ [S/PV.6724](#), pp. 2-3.

Briefing on the Security Council mission to West Africa

On 31 May 2012, the Council heard briefings by the representative of the United States and co-leader with Morocco of the Liberia segment of the mission; by the representative of France and co-leader with Togo of the Côte d'Ivoire segment of the mission (France);¹⁰⁵⁸ and by the representative of South Africa and co-leader with United Kingdom of the Sierra-Leone segment of the mission.

The representative of the United States, speaking also on behalf of her co-leader, said that the visit to Liberia on 19 and 20 May was focused on examining the country's efforts in relation to security and rule of law institutions, national reconciliation and the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) as well as on inter-mission cooperation between UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the security challenges along the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border. The members of the mission met with the President of Liberia, the Minister of Justice and the Inspector-General of the police as well as with representatives of civil society, and they also visited the Prime Timber Production refugee camp in Zwedru, Liberia, close to the Ivorian border. When asked about the transition of UNMIL, the President called for greater international support for Liberia's police in order to provide security in line with the expected decrease in United Nations troops. The Minister of Justice stressed the need to decentralize the delivery of justice with the help of the five planned United Nations peacebuilding-supported justice hubs. The representative of the United States noted that the Council had witnessed the considerable progress that the people of Liberia had achieved since the end of the civil war in 2003.¹⁰⁵⁹

The representative of France, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, stated that the primary task of the mission to Côte d'Ivoire on 21 and 22 May was to assess the stabilization process. The members of the mission met with the President of Côte d'Ivoire, the Prime Minister and other ministers, the Speaker of the

¹⁰⁵⁸ Members of the Council also participated in a meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abidjan.

¹⁰⁵⁹ [S/PV.6777](#), pp. 2-3.

National Assembly, parliamentary groups and members of the non-parliamentary opposition. The President and other government officials stressed that security sector reform still faced a shortage of resources, and Members of the Council noted that the process of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating thousands of ex-combatants remained one of the newest and most complex challenges. The representative of France stated that the members of the mission were able to take stock of the new threats to peace and security that justified the enhanced UNOCI presence in the western part of the country and the strengthened means to protect civilians, including through inter-mission cooperation with UNMIL. He added that the people on the ground expressed their serious concerns in a number of areas, such as security, including the movement of weapons and the attacks by combatants based in Liberia, and the humanitarian challenges facing refugees. In concluding, he said that the mission had made it possible for the Council to better understand the major priorities for efforts to be made by the United Nations.¹⁰⁶⁰

The representative of South Africa, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, said that the aim of the mission to Sierra Leone on 23 May 2012 was to encourage continued efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation. The members of the Council met with the President of Sierra Leone, several ministers, representatives from all 10 registered political parties and the National Electoral Commission as well as with members of civil society, including women's groups. The representative of South Africa stated that the forthcoming elections featured prominently during the Council's visit. The Council had received from the President a clear commitment to a free, fair and transparent process, and the National Electoral Commission declared that good progress was being made in the preparations for the November elections. Furthermore, he noted that the members of the mission were encouraged by the signing, by all political parties, of a declaration agreeing to contest the elections fairly and not to resort to violence. In conclusion, he said that in spite of the problems remaining, such as youth unemployment and lack of institutional capacity, Sierra Leone was on the path to building lasting peace.¹⁰⁶¹

¹⁰⁶⁰ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

¹⁰⁶¹ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste

On 12 November 2012, the representative of South Africa and leader of the mission to Timor-Leste stated that the purpose of the visit from 3 to 6 November 2012 was, inter alia, to reaffirm the Council's commitment to support Timor-Leste. He mentioned that the members of the mission met with various interlocutors in Government, including the President, the Prime Minister and key ministers, and with the National Police and defence forces as well as with non-governmental organizations. While noting the progress achieved, he made reference to some of the challenges faced by the country, such as strengthening State institutions and judicial capacities, including, once the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) ended, the completion of investigations of all serious crimes, security sector review and socioeconomic development. He recalled resolution [2037 \(2012\)](#), which provided for a final extension of the mandate of UNMIT until 31 December 2012, and said that Timorese stakeholders had agreed that the role of UNMIT had run its course and that it should withdraw. There were divergent views, however, on the future United Nations role. He stated that after the withdrawal of UNMIT, the United Nations would continue to provide support to Timorese national institutions in partnership with the Government. However, the key to that new phase would be national ownership of the process.¹⁰⁶²

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Yemen

On 7 February 2013, the Council heard briefings by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Morocco, the co-leaders of the mission to Yemen.

The representative of the United Kingdom reported that the purpose of the mission to Yemen on 27 January 2013 was to evaluate the implementation of resolution [2051 \(2012\)](#) and to assess the progress made on the political transition. During the visit, the members of the mission met with the President, who informed the Council that phase one of the transition plan, involving military restructuring and consolidating gains against Al-Qaida, had been completed and that phase two would focus on the national dialogue,

¹⁰⁶² [S/PV.6858](#), pp. 2-4.

leading to elections in February 2014. The representative also stated that during the visit the Military Committee had positively assessed the recent decrees to unify command structures and had said that the focus would now be on reforming the Ministry of Interior. In addition, the United Nations country team had given a briefing on the troubling humanitarian situation. In that regard, the representative said that the 2013 Yemen humanitarian response plan needed additional financial support, and the President of Yemen had called on the Friends of Yemen for assistance.¹⁰⁶³

The representative of Morocco reported on the meetings held with the Prime Minister, the Preparatory Committee of the National Dialogue Conference and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Prime Minister had focused on the obstacles that the Government was facing in the transitional period, especially at the political level. In that respect, he urged the Council to act firmly against people who undermined the political process. In regard to the meeting with the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Friends of Yemen, he said that the mission had commended the Gulf Cooperation Council's political and financial support for Yemen and urged it to continue its efforts. In conclusion, he echoed the representative of the United Kingdom, saying that the mission was successful and noting that, going forward, it was necessary for the Council to monitor the implementation of the next phases of the transition plan.¹⁰⁶⁴

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Africa

On 21 October 2013, the Council heard briefings by the representative of Morocco, co-leader with France of the Democratic Republic of the Congo segment of the mission, the representative of the United Kingdom, co-leader with Togo of the Uganda segment of the mission, the representative of Rwanda, co-leader with Azerbaijan of the Ethiopia segment of the mission (including the African Union), and the representative of the United States, leader of the Rwanda segment of the mission.

The representative of Morocco, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, stated that the message of the

mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 4 to 6 October 2013 was focused on the implementation of the commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and resolution 2098 (2013), and on urging all concerned to work to ensure the success of the negotiations in Kampala. During the visit, the members of the mission held meetings with the highest authorities, including the President and the Ministers of Defence, Interior and Justice. In the meetings, the Council stressed the importance of implementing the reforms in various areas, including the security sector; the restoration of State authority; democratization, decentralization and national reconciliation; and economic governance. A number of speakers expressed the view that to restore lasting peace in the country the problem raised by the 23 March Movement (M23) needed to be settled, but the Council nevertheless encouraged the continuation of the Kampala negotiations. The representative of Morocco also mentioned that the Council's visit made it possible to assess the deployment of the Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).¹⁰⁶⁵

The representative of the United Kingdom, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, briefed the Council on the visit to Uganda on 7 October 2013. He said that the members of the mission met with the President, Minister of Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the President spoke about the progress made in the talks in Kampala between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23. The members of the Council appealed to the President of Uganda to use his influence to ensure the full implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and to continue to promote peace in the region.¹⁰⁶⁶

The representative of Rwanda, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, stated that the purpose of the mission to Addis Ababa on 8 October 2013 was to strengthen partnership and enhance cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations. In line with the terms of reference for the mission, the seventh joint annual consultative meeting of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council was held on 8 October 2013, and

¹⁰⁶³ S/PV.6916, pp. 2-3.

¹⁰⁶⁴ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

¹⁰⁶⁵ S/PV.7045, pp. 2-3.

¹⁰⁶⁶ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

several topics were discussed, including the Great Lakes region, the Sudan and South Sudan, and the Sahel region. At the meeting, the two Councils generally agreed in principle on the topics under discussion, including on the nature of the crisis, on the partnerships required and on the solution to bring sustainable peace to the conflict-affected countries. A joint communiqué¹⁰⁶⁷ was adopted, in which the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed the need to enhance the existing partnership at both the strategic and operational levels to ensure a more effective response to the evolving peace and security challenges facing the African continent.¹⁰⁶⁸

The representative of the United States reported on the mission to Rwanda on 7 October 2013, which started with a visit to a demobilization centre in Mutobo. The members of the mission were pleased to ascertain that MONUSCO was playing a significant

role, in collaboration with Rwandan authorities, in ensuring that former fighters from the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda could resume their lives. In Kigali, the mission visited the children's wing of the Gisozi genocide memorial, a permanent repository of photos and testimonies related to the 1994 genocide, which had opened in 2004. The members of the mission also met with Government officials, including the President, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Defence and Finance. The status of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework was discussed as well as other matters. In citing the threat of the 23 March Movement, in addition to the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the mission emphasized the imperative for every country, including Rwanda, to neither tolerate nor provide support to any militia or armed force. It appealed to the President to use his country's influence with M23 to promote peace and bring the Kampala talks to a close.¹⁰⁶⁹

¹⁰⁶⁷ S/2013/611.

¹⁰⁶⁸ S/PV.7045, pp. 4-5.

¹⁰⁶⁹ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

Meetings: Security Council mission

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
S/PV.6724 28 February 2012	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Haiti (13 to 16 February 2012)	Letter dated 8 February 2012 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/82) Report of the Security Council mission to Haiti, 13-16 February 2012 (S/2012/534)	Haiti	United States
S/PV.6777 31 May 2012	Briefing by the Security Council mission to West Africa (18 to 24 May 2012)	Letter dated 18 May 2012 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/344) Report of the Security Council mission to Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, 18 to 24 May 2012 (S/2014/242)		France, South Africa, United States
S/PV.6858 12 November 2012	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste (1 to 7 November 2012) ^a	Letter dated 31 October 2012 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/793) Report of the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste, 3 to 6 November 2012 (S/2012/889)		South Africa
S/PV.6916 7 February 2013	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Yemen (27 January 2013)	Letter dated 25 January 2013 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/61) Report of the Security Council mission to Yemen, 27 January 2013 (S/2013/173)	Yemen	Morocco, United Kingdom
S/PV.7045 21 October 2013	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa (3 to 9 October 2013)	Letter dated 27 September 2013 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/579) Report of the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia (including the African Union), 3-9 October 2013 (S/2014/341)		Morocco, Rwanda, United Kingdom, United States

^a The statement on behalf of the European Union was made by the Deputy Head of the Delegation.

35. The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings in connection with the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security and issued one presidential statement.

Rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies

On 19 January 2012, the Council held an open debate on the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security, in the context of which the Secretary-General introduced his report on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies.¹⁰⁷⁰

The Secretary-General noted that the work of the United Nations to promote the rule of law extended to more than 150 countries and focused on a broad range of areas. He explained that the United Nations approach in relation to the rule of law had three basic components: to promote accountability and reinforce norms through transitional justice; to build justice and security institutions to promote trust; and to focus on justice for women and girls to foster gender equality. The Secretary-General acknowledged that the Council had helped to bring those priorities to the top of the international agenda, but he said that the Council could do more. He encouraged the Council to include the promotion of transitional justice measures more broadly in the mandates of peacekeeping missions and to reject any endorsement of amnesty for genocide and other serious crimes under international law. He also urged members to bring justice closer to victims by enhancing justice mechanisms and strengthening national prosecutions for serious international crimes.¹⁰⁷¹

During the debate, numerous speakers endorsed the report of the Secretary-General, and some of them highlighted in particular the need for the Council to adhere to basic rule of law principles to ensure the

legitimacy of its actions.¹⁰⁷² Many speakers highlighted the increasingly active role of the Council in promoting the rule of law. Some speakers noted the connections between the promotion and protection of the rule of law and the maintenance of peace and security,¹⁰⁷³ and several others emphasized the linkage with sustainable development.¹⁰⁷⁴ Many speakers stressed the primary role of States in ensuring the rule of law and the importance of national ownership in rule of law activities carried out at the international level.¹⁰⁷⁵ Several speakers expressed their support for the role being played by international tribunals, including the International Criminal Court, in ensuring and promoting the rule of law.¹⁰⁷⁶ Some speakers also recalled the importance attached to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and to the specific role of the International Court of Justice in

¹⁰⁷² Ibid. p. 14 (China); p. 15 (Russian Federation); p. 17 (Pakistan); p. 23 (Brazil); p. 27 (Liechtenstein); and p. 31 (Austria); [S/PV.6705 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 9 (Luxembourg).

¹⁰⁷³ [S/PV.6705](#), pp. 12-13 (Morocco); p. 14 (China); and p. 16 (Guatemala); [S/PV.6705 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 5 (Finland); p. 7 (Chile); p. 9 (Australia); p. 9 (Luxembourg); p. 10 (Mauritius); p. 13 (Bangladesh); p. 19 (Denmark); p. 21 (Armenia); p. 21 (Kyrgyzstan); and p. 22 (Ethiopia).

¹⁰⁷⁴ [S/PV.6705](#), p. 4 (Germany); p. 5 (India); p. 7 (Portugal); p. 11 (United Kingdom); p. 13 (Morocco); p. 14 (China); p. 20 (South Africa); p. 23 (Brazil); p.24 (Mexico); and p. 28 (Costa Rica); [S/PV.6705 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 4 (Estonia); p. 6 (Switzerland); p. 7 (Chile); p. 8 (Australia); p. 14 (Nepal); p. 17 (Solomon Islands); and p. 19 (Denmark).

¹⁰⁷⁵ [S/PV.6705](#), p. 5 (India); p. 11 (United Kingdom); p. 13 (Morocco); p. 14 (China); p. 15 (Russian Federation); p.16 (Guatemala); p.17 (Pakistan); p. 20 (South Africa); p. 23 (Brazil); and p. 27 (Liechtenstein); [S/PV.6705 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 13 (Sri Lanka); and p. 15 (Nepal).

¹⁰⁷⁶ [S/PV.6705](#), p. 4 (Germany); p. 6 (Portugal); p. 8 (France); p. 9 (United States); p. 20 (South Africa); p. 23 (Brazil); p. 24 (Mexico); p. 25 (Japan); p. 26 (Peru); p. 27 (Liechtenstein); and p. 30 (Austria); [S/PV.6705 \(Resumption 1\)](#), pp. 2-3 (European Union); pp. 3-4 (Estonia); p.18 (Argentina), p. 20 (Denmark); and p. 23 (Philippines).

¹⁰⁷⁰ [S/2011/634](#).

¹⁰⁷¹ [S/PV.6705](#), pp. 2-3.