

(Footnotes to Meetings: post-conflict peacebuilding)

^a Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement).

^b Colombia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^c Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey.

38. Threats to international peace and security

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with threats to international peace and security, and adopted a presidential statement. At the meeting, the Council explored a comprehensive, coordinated and effective response to counter the threats to international peace and security posed by illicit flows of materials and goods, as well as people, across borders.

Securing borders against illicit flows

On 25 April 2012, the Council had before it a concept paper prepared by the President (United States) to guide its deliberations.¹¹³⁷ The Secretary-General stressed that insufficiently protected borders enabled the trafficking of drugs, weapons, contraband, terrorist funding, materials related to weapons of mass destruction, conflict minerals, wildlife and people. Since such illicit flows undermined national sovereignty, destroyed communities and lives, fuelled terrorism and threatened peace and security, they were rightly the focus of the Council's close attention. He added that countering those illicit flows required strengthening border security, regional cooperation, ratification and implementation of legal instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and capacity-building support to Member States to overcome conditions that allowed such criminal activity to flourish. The Secretary-General committed to submitting a report to the Council within six months, providing a

comprehensive assessment of the United Nations work to help Member States counter illicit flows.¹¹³⁸

In the discussion that followed, members expressed deep concern over the ever more sophisticated, interconnected and evolving threats to international peace and security represented by cross-border trafficking and movement of materials, funds, goods and persons, particularly for fragile States. They noted that organized criminal networks took advantage of the opportunities presented by globalization and advances in technology and emphasized the need for concerted action at the national, regional and global levels. Several members, however, underscored the importance of striking a balance between global action and the sovereign right of States to manage borders, as well as between effective border control and facilitation of the legitimate movement of persons, funds and goods. Recognizing the legal instruments developed and wide range of activities carried out by various United Nations organs and bodies to support States that requested assistance, including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, members welcomed the forthcoming report by the Secretary-General as opening the way for holistic, better coordinated, streamlined and more effective assistance strategies and plans of actions. A few members stressed that the Council should respect the mandates of other organs and specialized bodies and avoid duplication. It should intervene only in conflict and post-conflict situations that threatened international peace and

¹¹³⁷ [S/2012/195](#), annex.

¹¹³⁸ [S/PV.6760](#), pp. 2-3. The report of the Secretary-General, dated 19 October 2012 ([S/2012/777](#)), which was prepared on the basis of contributions from 20 United Nations entities and three international agencies that cooperate closely with the United Nations, was considered by the Council on 8 November 2012 in informal consultations of the whole.

security and under restrictive measures imposed by it to restrict illicit flows across borders, including sanctions regimes established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1373 \(2001\)](#) and [1540 \(2004\)](#).¹¹³⁹

Recalling that the Council had often addressed illicit transfers individually, in specific regional contexts, the representative of the United States noted that the Council had tended to look at each trafficked item in isolation from the common feature that they shared — poorly secured borders that were too easily exploited by criminal networks. Similarly, a number of United Nations bodies involved in assisting States in border protection and in implementing their international obligations were so narrowly focused on specific threats that they might be unaware of overlapping efforts or miss opportunities to pool knowledge and expertise. There was scope to streamline and strengthen the United Nations capacity in this respect, and the Security Council could make an important contribution, but it was vital that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council be engaged as well.¹¹⁴⁰

During the course of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it acknowledged the evolving challenges and threats to international peace and security, expressed concern that illicit cross-border trafficking and movement contributed to those threats and recognized that they involved cross-cutting issues, many of which were considered by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs and bodies. The Council called upon all Member States to improve border management to effectively constrain the spread of transnational threats. The Council also encouraged Member States as well as international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations to enhance efforts to assist Member States to build the capacity to secure their borders against illicit cross-border trafficking, upon request and by mutual agreement. The Council acknowledged the importance of coherent, system-wide United Nations action, and invited the Secretary-General to submit in six months a report providing an assessment of the work of the United Nations to help Member States to counter illicit cross-border trafficking and movement.¹¹⁴¹

¹¹³⁹ [S/PV.6760](#), p. 8 (India); p. 9 (Russian Federation); p. 11 (China); p. 17 (Pakistan); p. 27 (Argentina); and p. 29 (Cuba); [S/PV.6760 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 2 (Iran (Islamic Republic of)); and p. 8 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

¹¹⁴⁰ [S/PV.6760](#), pp. 18-19.

¹¹⁴¹ [S/PRST/2012/16](#).

Meeting: threats to international peace and security

<i>Meeting record 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>
S/PV.6760 and S/PV.6760 (Resumption 1) 25 April 2012	Securing borders against illicit cross-border trafficking and movement Letter dated 5 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/195)		19 Member States ^a	Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	S/PRST/2012/16

^a Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Japan, Libya, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

39. Maintenance of international peace and security

Overview

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings and issued two presidential statements under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. Sub-items included: (a) nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and security; (b) piracy; and (c) conflict prevention and natural resources.

Nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and security

On 19 April 2012, at the initiative of the United States, the Council held a debate on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and security. The Council had before it a concept note¹¹⁴² concerning the purpose of the meeting, which was, *inter alia*, to take stock of international efforts relating to the issues of non-proliferation, disarmament and security and renew the Council’s attention and determination to address them. The concept note also made reference to the opportunity for the Council to reaffirm its support for the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its commitment to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).¹¹⁴³

The Secretary-General recalled that in spite of the progress achieved, much work remained to be done, given the existence of tens of thousands of nuclear weapons threatening humankind. He noted that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty had not yet entered into force 16 years after its adoption by the General Assembly and that the Conference on Disarmament remained deadlocked. He affirmed that the current stalemate was unacceptable. He also urged the Democratic Republic of Korea to immediately comply fully with its obligations under the relevant resolutions and emphasized that, with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the only acceptable outcome was a peaceful settlement that would restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, in conformity with the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.¹¹⁴⁴

During the debate, most speakers highlighted the threat posed by the availability of nuclear weapons to terrorist groups and non-State actors and reaffirmed the importance of a multilateral approach to nuclear security. In that regard, a number of speakers emphasized the central roles of IAEA and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in pursuing global disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Many speakers expressed concern about the lack of progress at the Conference on Disarmament and called for the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty.¹¹⁴⁵ Several speakers emphasized the need for Member States to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in order to achieve a prompt entry into force.¹¹⁴⁶ Many speakers advocated in favour of global nuclear disarmament and called for the promotion of nuclear-weapon-free-zones.¹¹⁴⁷ Most speakers emphasized the need for a coordinated approach, and highlighted the specific role of the United Nations in nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and security.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it expressed grave concern with regard to the threat of terrorism and the risk of weapons of mass destruction becoming available. The Council made reference in particular to resolution 1540 (2004), in connection with the obligation of Member States to take measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The Council affirmed the essential role of IAEA, called upon States parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to ratify the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material as soon as possible, and encouraged all States that had not yet done so to adhere to the Convention and adopt its amendment as soon as possible. The Council also called on Member States to become a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of

¹¹⁴² S/2012/194, annex.

¹¹⁴³ For more information, see part IX, sect. I, B, “Committees established under Chapter VII of the Charter”.

¹¹⁴⁴ S/PV.6753, pp. 2-3.

¹¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4 (Colombia); p. 6 (India); p. 8 (Morocco); p. 9 (Portugal); p. 11 (Germany); p. 14 (Togo); p. 16 (France); p. 21 (United Kingdom); and p. 23 (United States).

¹¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4 (Colombia); p. 9 (Portugal); p. 11 (Germany); p. 17 (Guatemala); and p. 23 (United States).

¹¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4 (Colombia); p. 5 (Azerbaijan); p. 6 (India); p. 8 (Morocco); p. 9 (Portugal); p. 10 (China); p. 12 (Germany); p. 15 (France); and p. 17 (Guatemala).