

Asia

18. The situation in Timor-Leste

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held five meetings in connection with the situation in Timor-Leste, including one closed meeting with the troop-contributing countries,⁵⁴⁰ and adopted one resolution and one presidential statement. The Council received briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), the President of Timor-Leste, and the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIT. The Council focused on the efforts to transfer the functions of UNMIT to the Timorese authorities in preparation for the Mission's withdrawal at the end of 2012, on the preparations for the presidential and parliamentary elections due in the first half of 2012, on the downsizing process of the police component of the Mission after the elections and on the role of the United Nations in the country following the departure of the Mission. There were no meetings on this item in 2013.

On 23 February 2012, the Council extended the mandate of UNMIT⁵⁴¹ until the end of that year and endorsed the Secretary-General's plan of its phased drawdown.⁵⁴² In line with the Secretary-General's recommendation, UNMIT was terminated on 19 December 2012.⁵⁴³ The Council carried out a mission to Timor-Leste from 3 to 6 November 2012.⁵⁴⁴

Briefing on transition planning and final renewal of UNMIT mandate

On 22 February 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIT reported that Timor-Leste had made significant strides in

advancing peace and stability and that, in the light of the overall stable situation, the closing of UNMIT continued to be planned for the end of 2012 and the post-2012 engagement of the United Nations in the country was already being discussed. She provided an overview of the preparations for the presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on 17 March and late in June 2012 respectively, and the operational support provided by UNMIT in this context. Regarding the transition of UNMIT, the Special Representative commended the efforts by the Government and the Mission in advancing the implementation of the Joint Transition Plan, noting that the main challenge was to ensure that institutions taking on new responsibilities had sufficient capacity and funding to carry them out effectively.⁵⁴⁵

The President of Timor-Leste informed the Council that, after a number of initiatives had been taken by his Office to address the root causes of the 2006 crisis, peace was palpable in Timor-Leste. While acknowledging that too much remained to be realized, he stated that the country would not have come so far without the generous assistance of the United Nations through UNMIT, specialized agencies and programmes, as well as of their bilateral partners and neighbours. He outlined the main achievements in the 10 years since Timor-Leste had become an independent country, in different areas including human, social and economic development, good governance and human rights. He underscored the contributions of UNMIT since its establishment in 2006, especially in the areas of good offices and public security and policing. He declared that, by the end of 2012, the goal was to see peacekeeping come to a close and to form a new partnership with the United Nations, underpinned by a modest mission tailored to the specific needs and priorities of Timor-Leste, to be decided by the newly elected Government. He said that a High-level Committee on Transition chaired by himself with the support of the Prime Minister and the Special Representative had been established; the emerging consensus was that the United Nations role could include support to further enhance democratic

⁵⁴⁰ See [S/PV.6714](#).

⁵⁴¹ For more information on the mandate of UNMIT, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

⁵⁴² See resolution [2037 \(2012\)](#)

⁵⁴³ See [S/PRST/2012/27](#).

⁵⁴⁴ For information on the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste, see part I, sect. 34, "Security Council mission"; and part VI, sect. II, "Investigation of disputes and fact-finding".

⁵⁴⁵ [S/PV.6720](#), pp. 2-4.

institutions, capacity-building of the security sector institutions, in particular the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste, and continued support in areas such as governance, justice and human rights.⁵⁴⁶

Speakers generally welcomed the continued overall progress and stability attained in Timor-Leste and agreed that a successful electoral process in 2012 would be critical to ensuring a smooth transition from peacekeeping to a post-conflict peacebuilding phase. Several speakers expressed their support for the Joint Transition Plan as a positive example of collaboration between the Government of Timor-Leste and UNMIT, agreeing that the format of the future United Nations engagement in the country must be guided and owned by the newly elected Government of Timor-Leste.⁵⁴⁷

Concluding work of UNMIT; transition and post-Mission periods

On 12 November 2012, the Council heard a briefing by the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who stated that the end of peacekeeping operations in Timor-Leste was justified by the successful completion of critical benchmarks in the course of that year. Most notably, the full reconstitution of the national police force of Timor-Leste on 31 October had been an acknowledgment that it was fully capable of conducting all police functions throughout the country, and thus had marked the beginning of the drawdown of UNMIT personnel. The other major event had been the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections, on the basis of which a new Government was formed and in which a political opposition had space to operate in line with democratic principles.⁵⁴⁸ While stating that the Mission's phased drawdown had been moving apace for the withdrawal on 31 December, the Acting Special Representative acknowledged that work on the investigations into cases relating to crimes against humanity and other serious crimes committed in 1999 would not be completed by the end of the Mission's mandate. He stressed that Timor-Leste still faced many challenges, but stated his opinion that a peacekeeping

mission was no longer best placed to support efforts to meet those challenges. He concluded by saying that the Government had expressed its wish for an innovative working relationship with the United Nations after the closure of UNMIT and that the priorities concerning development and institution-building in Timor-Leste would require the continued commitment of the international community.⁵⁴⁹

The representative of Timor-Leste highlighted the country's developments in different areas such as health, education, multi-party democracy, participation of women and economic development. He noted that the Government had instituted critical reforms in the security and defence sectors, established new institutions, including an independent civil service commission and an anti-corruption commission, and strengthened the justice sector with the aim of promoting good governance and the rule of law. Acknowledging that Timor-Leste's success was also that of the United Nations and of the international community, he stated that, as a Member of the United Nations, Timor-Leste would continue to share its experience and lessons learned, as it was doing through the Group of Seven Plus, and continue to contribute in a modest way to United Nations missions and agencies.⁵⁵⁰

Speakers generally saluted the continuous progress made towards achieving a secure and stable political situation in the country as evidenced by the successful presidential and parliamentary elections, with results accepted and legitimacy endorsed by all parties. Several speakers welcomed the full reconstitution of the national police force, which had proved to be capable of ensuring domestic security.⁵⁵¹ Some speakers acknowledged that the Security Council mission sent to Timor-Leste from 3 to 6 November had been a timely opportunity for first-hand verification of the progress achieved.⁵⁵² Regarding the contours of a

⁵⁴⁶ Ibid., pp. 5-9.

⁵⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 10 (South Africa); p. 11 (India); p. 12 (United Kingdom); p. 13 (Portugal); p. 15 (United States); p. 18 (Azerbaijan, Guatemala); p.20 (China); p. 21 (Germany); p. 22 (Pakistan); p. 25 (Brazil); p. 27 (Australia); and p.31 (New Zealand).

⁵⁴⁸ See letter from the President of Timor-Leste to the Secretary-General (S/2012/736, annex).

⁵⁴⁹ S/PV.6859, pp. 2-5.

⁵⁵⁰ Ibid., pp. 5-7.

⁵⁵¹ Ibid., p. 7 (South Africa); p. 10 (Russian Federation); p. 11 (Azerbaijan); p. 12 (Guatemala); p. 15 (China); p. 19 (United States); p. 20 (France, India); p. 21 (Brazil); p. 25 (New Zealand); and p. 26 (Australia).

⁵⁵² Ibid., p. 7 (South Africa); p. 9 (Togo, Morocco); p. 11 (Russian Federation, Azerbaijan); p. 16 (Portugal); p. 18 (Pakistan); p. 20 (India); pp. 23-24 (Mozambique, as Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries); and p. 26 (Australia).

United Nations presence in the country following the departure of UNMIT, most speakers expressed their support for the request of the Government of Timor-Leste for a post-UNMIT innovative working relationship of cooperation with the United Nations, focusing on institutional strengthening and development.⁵⁵³ Some speakers expressed favourable views on the removal of the situation in Timor-Leste from the agenda of the Security Council.⁵⁵⁴

⁵⁵³ p. 8 (South Africa); p. 10 (Togo); p. 11 (Azerbaijan); p. 14 (Colombia); p. 16 (Portugal); p. 18 (Pakistan); p. 19 (United States); p. 22 (Brazil); and p. 25 (New Zealand, Australia).

⁵⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 8 (South Africa); p. 11 (Russian Federation); p. 18 (Pakistan); p. 20 (France); and p. 21 (India).

Presidential statement preceding the departure of UNMIT

By a presidential statement of 19 December 2012, the Council, in the context of the completion of the Mission's mandate on 31 December 2012, recognized the important contribution of the Mission in promoting peace, stability and development in Timor-Leste, including through its work to strengthen the capacity of the national police. Applauding the Government and all Timorese for their steadfast collaboration and partnership with UNMIT and the United Nations country team since the establishment of the Mission, the Council noted that the Government of Timor-Leste had indicated that the United Nations would continue to be an important partner in the new phase of the development of the nation.⁵⁵⁵

⁵⁵⁵ [S/PRST/2012/27](#).

Meetings: the situation in Timor-Leste

<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.6720 22 February 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) (S/2012/43)		Angola, ^a Australia, Brazil, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Timor-Leste (President)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and Head of UNMIT, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.6721 23 February 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIT (S/2012/43)	Draft resolution submitted by 12 Member States ^b (S/2012/106)	Australia, Brazil, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand		United Kingdom	Resolution 2037 (2012) 15-0-0
S/PV.6859 12 November 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIT (S/2012/765)		Australia, Brazil, Japan, Mozambique, ^c New Zealand, Timor-Leste (Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation)	Acting Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of UNMIT, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation	All Council members and all invitees	
S/PV.6892 19 December 2012			Timor-Leste			S/PRST/2012/27

^a Angola spoke on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

^b Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

^c Mozambique spoke on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

19. The situation in Afghanistan

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 11 meetings and adopted four resolutions in connection with the situation in Afghanistan.

The Council focused on the gradual transition to Afghan responsibility for providing security for the period after the withdrawal of the United Nations-authorized International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). It considered the framework for socioeconomic development and regional integration. The Council also discussed the reconciliation process, human rights, the preparations for the 2014 elections, and the fight against drug trafficking.

The Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) twice for periods of one year.⁵⁵⁶ It also twice extended, for periods of one year, the authorization of ISAF,⁵⁵⁷ under Chapter VII of the Charter, including authorization for the Member States participating in ISAF to take all necessary measures to fulfil its mandate.

Security and economic development

During the period under review, the transition of the responsibility for security from ISAF to the Afghan National Security Forces, as well as greater Afghan ownership in the political and socioeconomic sphere were discussed at every meeting held under this item.

In his briefing to the Council on 20 March 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA reported that the international military presence was gradually transferring full security responsibility in Afghanistan to the Afghan National Security Forces and would finish its current mission by the end of 2014. He underlined that the transition process had thus far been on track and on target, but added that the process also entailed accelerated Afghan leadership, responsibility

and accountability in governance, the rule of law, justice, economic development, and combating corruption and poverty.⁵⁵⁸ The representative of Afghanistan called this process a paradigm shift, with the aim of empowering Afghanistan to take charge of its own destiny, and said that transition should be followed by the transformation decade 2015-2024. He welcomed the Istanbul process on regional integration, which he called a visionary step forward to achieving a benevolent regional order, characterized by cooperation, collaboration and shared goals.⁵⁵⁹ Speakers in general welcomed the transition of responsibility in security and socioeconomic development, and pointed to the importance of the Chicago Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held in May 2012 and the Tokyo Conference of July 2012 for the future of these processes.⁵⁶⁰ The representative of the Russian Federation argued against artificial deadlines for withdrawing international forces from Afghanistan, saying that ISAF troops had received a mandate from the Security Council and should therefore present a final report to the Council before withdrawing.⁵⁶¹

In his briefing on 27 June 2012 the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations informed Council members on the progress made in the transition, namely at the NATO Summit in Chicago on defining the shape of, and the long-term support to, the Afghan National Security Forces, and at the ministerial conference in Kabul on regional cooperation held in Kabul on 14 June. He expressed the hope that long-term commitments to the socioeconomic development sector would be made later that year at the Tokyo Conference.⁵⁶² On the transition in the security sector, the representative of Afghanistan also reported on the Chicago Summit and provided information on the establishment of bilateral partnership agreements with

⁵⁵⁶ See resolutions 2041 (2012) and 2096 (2013); for more information on the mandate of UNAMA, see part X, sect. II, "Political and peacebuilding missions".

⁵⁵⁷ Resolutions 2069 (2012) and 2120 (2013); for more information on the mandate of ISAF, see part VIII, sect. III, "Peacekeeping operations led by regional arrangements".

⁵⁵⁸ S/PV.6735, pp. 2-3.

⁵⁵⁹ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

⁵⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 7 (Germany); p. 9 (Portugal); p. 11 (South Africa); pp. 13-14 (India); p. 18 (France); p. 20 (Azerbaijan); pp. 22-23 (United States); p. 24 (United Kingdom); p. 26 (European Union); p. 27 (Australia); p. 28 (Japan); pp. 29-30 (Turkey); and pp. 30-31 (Norway).

⁵⁶¹ Ibid., p. 21.

⁵⁶² S/PV.6793, pp. 2-3.