
Africa

1. The situation concerning Western Sahara

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions relating to the situation concerning Western Sahara. At those meetings, the Council considered the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), which was extended twice, for a period of one year each time².

Extension of the mandate of MINURSO

On 24 April 2012, by resolution [2044 \(2012\)](#), the Council decided to extend the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2013. After the vote, the representative of South Africa expressed his disappointment that the Council, once again, had been unable to agree on establishing an international human rights mechanism within MINURSO. He said that MINURSO was one of the few United Nations missions without a human rights mandate, which created the impression that the Council did not give priority to the human rights of the people of Western Sahara. He further raised his

delegation's concern at the manner in which the report of the Secretary-General dated 5 April 2012³ had been prepared and finalized, underlining the importance of giving due consideration to Article 100 of the Charter.⁴ The representative of Morocco, on the other hand, stated that the Council was quite right to refuse, for the third year in a row, to broaden the mandate of MINURSO to include matters irrelevant to its functions and nature, opining that, in adhering to the original mandate, the Council was directing MINURSO to commit itself to the existing agreements.⁵

On 25 April 2013, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2099 \(2013\)](#), in which it encouraged the parties to continue in their respective efforts to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Western Sahara and the Tindouf refugee camps. By the same resolution, the Council extended the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2014 and supported the request of the Secretary-General for six additional United Nations police officers to implement the expanded family visit programme.

² Resolutions [2044 \(2012\)](#) and [2099 \(2013\)](#). For more information on MINURSO, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

³ [S/2012/197](#).

⁴ [S/PV.6758](#), pp. 2-3.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

Meetings: the situation concerning Western Sahara

<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.6758 24 April 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2012/197)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom, United States (S/2012/249)	Spain		Morocco, South Africa	Resolution 2044 (2012) 15-0-0
S/PV.6951 25 April 2013	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2013/220)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Russian Federation, Spain, United States (S/2013/243)	Spain			Resolution 2099 (2013) 15-0-0

2. The situation in Liberia

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held nine meetings in connection with the situation in Liberia, including two closed meetings with troop-contributing countries,⁶ and adopted four resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter. The Council heard three briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

During the meetings, the Council considered the phased drawdown of the military strength of UNMIL and extended the mandate of UNMIL twice, for periods of one year respectively.⁷ By resolutions 2079 (2012) and 2128 (2013), the Council renewed the travel ban and arms embargo imposed by resolution 1521 (2003), for 12 months each time. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also twice extended for 12 months, by the same resolutions.⁸

In May 2012, the Security Council visited Liberia among other countries during its mission to West Africa.⁹

Briefings on the situation in Liberia and UNMIL

On 11 September 2012, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of UNMIL, who reported that since 2003 Liberia had made significant progress in institutional rebuilding as well as the consolidation of its democratic processes and was very close to becoming “a true success story”. She stressed that

improvement of the security situation and the creation of lasting stability in Liberia were not only contingent upon security sector reform, which UNMIL was providing, but that the country also needed to enhance national reconciliation and implement structural political changes, which would require both political commitment and financial resources. With regard to constitutional reform and national reconciliation, she expressed the view that any comprehensive constitutional reform must be endorsed by referendum, which implied a high degree of public awareness. Given the large responsibility the police would bear as UNMIL transitioned, she stated that considerable attention should be given to increasing police professionalism, logistics capacity and recruitment efforts. Concerning the security situation along the border with Côte d’Ivoire, she stated that UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) had strengthened their inter-mission cooperation on border issues, and encouraged further cooperation between Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire.¹⁰

In his briefing to the Council, the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission emphasized that national reconciliation should be at the centre of the peace process. He said that it was featured as a core peacebuilding priority in the statement of mutual commitments between the Commission and the Government of Liberia, and that it was linked to processes of constitutional review, decentralization and election reform. Concerning capacity-building of the Liberia national police, he said that the Commission, having received the request from the President of Liberia, facilitated consultations on how to strengthen and coordinate training support to the national police. He added that the Commission was finalizing a resource mobilization strategy and corresponding work plan, working closely with the Government and UNMIL.¹¹

The representative of Liberia expressed her concerns about the security situation along the border of Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire and stressed that the matter required close attention because of its potential risks to national and regional security. While commending actions that UNMIL and UNOCI were

⁶ See S/PV.6828 and S/PV.7021.

⁷ Resolutions 2066 (2012) and 2116 (2013). For more information on UNMIL, see part X, sect. I, “Peacekeeping operations”.

⁸ For more information on the sanctions measures concerning Liberia, see part VII, sect. III, “Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter”. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia and the mandate of the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I. B.

⁹ For more information on the Security Council mission to West Africa, see part I, sect. 34, “Security Council mission”.

¹⁰ S/PV.6830, pp. 2-4.

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 4-6.