

B. High-level meeting of the Security Council on the anniversary of 11 September 2001: acts of international terrorism

Initial proceedings

Decision of 11 September 2002 (4607th meeting): statement by the President

At its 4607th meeting, on 11 September 2002, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “High-level meeting of the Security Council on the anniversary of 11 September 2001: acts of international terrorism”.

Statements were made by the Secretary-General and the representative of the United States.²²⁸ In his opening remarks, the President (Bulgaria) stated that the meeting was to pay solemn tribute to the memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks that had struck the United States on 11 September 2001.²²⁹

The Secretary-General emphasized the role of the Council as the most central body in the fight against terrorism, being the forum for building the broadest possible international coalition. Recalling the adoption by the Council of strong resolutions after the attacks, the Secretary-General noted the cooperation of Member States in a wide range of counter-terrorism areas. He stressed that, one year after the attacks, the importance of global legitimacy in the fight against terrorism had only grown, and called on the Council to strive even harder to win the widest possible support in

the struggle ahead.²³⁰

The Secretary of State of the United States affirmed that following the attacks, it was clear that terrorism was a threat to international peace and security and that concerted and long-term action was necessary to eradicate that menace. He referred to the combined efforts of members of the United Nations to combat terrorism to date, including the instalment of an interim governing authority in Afghanistan. He held that the international community must be prepared for a long effort measured in years, not months, to eliminate terrorism as a global menace.²³¹

At the same meeting, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council,²³² by which the Council, inter alia:

Honoured those innocents killed and injured in the attacks of 11 September 2001;

Affirmed that those attacks had been an assault on global civilization and the common efforts to make the world a better and safer place;

Called upon all States and regional and subregional organizations to carry forward and build on their cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

²²⁸ Bulgaria was represented by its President; all other Council members except Mexico were represented at the ministerial level.

²²⁹ S/PV.4607, p. 2.

²³⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3.

²³¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

²³² S/PRST/2002/25.

C. High-level meeting of the Security Council: combating terrorism

Initial proceedings

Decision of 20 January 2003 (4688th meeting): resolution 1456 (2003)

At its 4688th meeting, on 20 January 2003, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “High-level meeting of the Security Council: combating terrorism”.

During the meeting, statements were made by all members of the Council,²³³ the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The Secretary-General stressed that the threat of terrorism, if it were to be addressed successfully,

²³³ Except for Chile and the Syrian Arab Republic, the Council members were represented at the ministerial level.

required a global response as well as long-term action. He urged the United Nations to set effective international norms in order to play an increasing role in dissuading potential perpetrators of terror. He assigned the key role for this to the Counter-Terrorism Committee which had the responsibility to ensure the implementation of international anti-terrorism conventions and standards and therefore was at the centre of global efforts to fight terrorism. He also warned about collateral damage of the war on terrorism, by sacrificing crucial liberties or the rule of law on the domestic level, and by using the fight against terrorism as an excuse for military action on the international level. He further held that to the extent the Organization succeeded in fighting poverty, injustice, suffering and war in line with the goals of the Charter, it was also likely to help to end the conditions serving as a justification for those who committed acts of terror.²³⁴

The Chairman of the Committee stated that although the vast majority of States had begun to implement resolution 1373 (2001) by starting to consider or adopting new laws, more and faster action was needed. He named the States that had not yet submitted their reports to the Committee for a number of reasons, setting a deadline for submission after which any non-reporting State would be held to be non-compliant with the resolution. He also emphasized the complexity of resolution 1373 (2001) for implementation and therefore stressed that the Committee was offering a variety of guidance and advice to States that might require help. In that context, he also pointed out the benefits to individual States of working within the collective efforts of their regions and asked for support from international and regional organizations. He drew the attention to potential links between terrorism and other forms of international organized crime which had already been taken up in resolution 1373 (2001) and stated that the structures the Committee was helping to put in place for counter-terrorism might also be useful for the fight against international crime of all kinds.²³⁵

In their statements, most speakers commended the work of the Committee and saw a continued need for its coordinating and assisting role in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). They

²³⁴ S/PV.4688, pp. 2-30.

²³⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-5.

reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach and strengthened cooperation in the fight against terrorism, and in that regard acknowledged the leading role played by the United Nations.

Some speakers pleaded for cooperation at various levels, in particular at the regional and international levels, and welcomed the special meeting of the Committee with regional and international organizations to be held in March 2003 in order to strengthen cooperation and improve coordination at various levels in the fight against terrorism.²³⁶ According to the representative of Chile, the draft resolution before the Council²³⁷ marked a turning point in the Committee's work since it emphasized the establishment of horizontal relationships between countries and international and regional organizations and put cooperation among States at the centre of the efforts to combat terrorism.²³⁸

Many speakers recognized the need to strengthen the international anti-terrorist legal framework and hoped that the work on the draft conventions on international terrorism and on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be finalized.²³⁹ Some speakers reminded the Council that while combating terrorism, it had to respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.²⁴⁰

Several speakers also addressed the importance of tackling the root causes underlying terrorism²⁴¹ and regarded conflict prevention and conflict settlement as an essential effort to eliminate terrorism.²⁴² Others drew attention to the fact that terrorism was often related to other illegal activities, in particular arms

²³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 9 (Bulgaria); p. 14 (Mexico); p. 19 (United States); p. 21 (Guinea); and p. 25 (Chile).

²³⁷ S/2003/60.

²³⁸ S/PV.4688, pp. 24-25.

²³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Germany); p. 8 (Cameroon); p. 10 (Bulgaria); p. 11 (Angola); pp. 15-16 (Russian Federation); p. 18 (United States); p. 21 (Guinea); p. 25 (Chile); and p. 26 (France).

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6 (Germany); p. 14 (Mexico); p. 15 (Russian Federation); p. 20 (China); and p. 22 (Syrian Arab Republic).

²⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Germany); p. 6 (Cameroon); p. 9 (United Kingdom); p. 11 (Angola); p. 16 (Russian Federation); p. 20 (China); p. 22 (Guinea); p. 23 (Syrian Arab Republic); and p. 26 (France).

²⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Germany); p. 9 (United Kingdom); p. 14 (Mexico); p. 16 (Russian Federation); p. 20 (China); p. 22 (Guinea); and p. 26 (France).

trafficking, money-laundering and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.²⁴³ The representative of Spain proposed consideration of an adjustment of the Committee's mandate in that regard.²⁴⁴ Some other speakers in particular expressed concern at the risk of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction and emphasized the need to address the issue.²⁴⁵ To prevent terrorist groups from using radioactive sources to make dirty bombs, the representative of France announced concrete proposals with a view to formulating an international convention strengthening controls over the use and transfer of such radioactive sources.²⁴⁶

The link between terrorism and States possessing weapons of mass destruction was addressed in particular in relation to the situation in Iraq: while the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States and the United Kingdom unanimously hoped that the crisis would be resolved peacefully, the representative of the United Kingdom warned of a potential use of force in the event that Iraq did not actively comply with its Security Council obligations and cooperate fully with inspectors.²⁴⁷ Similarly, the representative of the United States stressed that if Iraq did not come into full compliance, States must not shrink from the responsibilities set before themselves

unanimously in resolution 1441 (2002).²⁴⁸ The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic took up the link between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region and called for international conferences to define terrorism and to make the Middle East a zone free of such weapons.²⁴⁹

As to the role of the Committee, referring to resolution 1373 (2001), which required States also to take measures against accomplices of terrorists, the representative of the Russian Federation proposed that the Committee pursue the matter, given the importance of not only assisting Member States in improving their anti-terrorist laws but also in examining the application of those laws in accordance with current requirements.²⁵⁰ The representative of Spain stressed that the Committee should not be limited to a review of reports submitted by States and must propose concrete legal and political measures with regard to preventing the financing of terrorism, proposing instruments for information exchange and recommending effective border control.²⁵¹

The President (France) drew the attention of the Council to the draft resolution,²⁵² it was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1456 (2003), by which the Council decided to adopt a declaration annexed to the resolution, on the issue of combating terrorism.

²⁴³ Ibid., p. 10 (Bulgaria); p. 15 (Russian Federation); p. 18 (United States); p. 21 (Guinea); and p. 26 (France).

²⁴⁴ Ibid., p. 17.

²⁴⁵ Ibid., p. 6 (Germany); p. 8 (United Kingdom); p. 15 (Russian Federation); p. 17 (Spain); and p. 18 (United States).

²⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 26.

²⁴⁷ Ibid., pp. 8-9 (United Kingdom); p. 15 (Russian Federation); and p. 18 (United States).

²⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 18.

²⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 23.

²⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 15.

²⁵¹ Ibid., p. 17.

²⁵² S/2003/60.

40. Promoting peace and security: humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa

Initial proceedings

Decision of 13 January 2000 (4089th meeting): statement by the President

At its 4089th meeting, on 13 January 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Promoting peace and security: humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa". The Council heard a briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, following which an interactive discussion took place and statements were made by all Council members.

The High Commissioner stated that the past few years had witnessed significant changes in the pattern of refugee crises, notably the increase in internally displaced persons. While the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had assisted internally displaced persons upon the request of the Secretary-General or when their situation was closely linked to a refugee or returnee issue, and other humanitarian agencies had intervened in some situations, she noted with concern that there was no