

Called for urgent consideration of how the United Nations system might improve its support for Guinea-Bissau's fight against international drug trafficking and organized crime;

Recognized in particular the important role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

Welcomed the initiative to hold an international conference in Lisbon, on drug trafficking on Guinea-Bissau in December 2007;

Expressed its concern with the fragility of the democratization process in Guinea-Bissau as well as persistent economic and social crisis;

Welcomed the scheduled convening of legislative elections in 2008;

Welcomed the improved dialogue between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Bretton Woods institutions and urged the Government to continue to implement its commitments in the areas of fiscal responsibility, reforms of the justice sector and good governance;

Encouraged the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to carry out their commitment concerning security sector reform;

Reaffirmed that peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau were critical for peace and security in the West African subregion, and welcomed the role being played by the African Union, ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, in the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau.

### 13. The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

#### **Decision of 4 February 2004 (4909th meeting): resolution 1527 (2004)**

In his report on the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) dated 6 January 2004,<sup>1</sup> the Secretary-General noted with concern the prolonged political impasse in Côte d'Ivoire, which could have taken a turn for the worse with the attempt by the Young Patriots and elements of the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) to cross the ceasefire line and launch attacks on the Forces nouvelles. He welcomed the initiatives by the President, Laurent Gbagbo, and the Prime Minister, Seydou Diarra, to meet with the Forces nouvelles as well as the return of the Forces nouvelles to the Government of National Reconciliation. While asserting that such positive developments had given fresh impetus to the peace process, the Secretary-General emphasized that fundamental issues underlying the Ivorian crisis had to be addressed to ensure the irreversibility of the process. Should the Ivorian parties make sufficient progress in that regard by 4 February 2004, when the mandates of MINUCI, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mission in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces would expire, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council consider authorizing the deployment of a multidimensional United Nations

peacekeeping operation to support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. The peacekeeping operation would comprise a military component with a troop strength of 6,240, including 200 military observers and 120 staff officers, and a civilian component consisting of enhanced disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, electoral, human rights, public information, civil affairs, political, civilian police and judicial components. In that connection, the Secretary-General stressed that if the Council were to approve his recommendation on the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Council and troop-contributing countries must ensure that the requisite resources were available and not at the expense of other missions.

At its 4909th meeting,<sup>2</sup> on 4 February 2004, the Council included the above-mentioned report in its agenda and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (China) drew the attention of the Council to a

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<sup>2</sup> During this period, in addition to the meetings covered in this section, the Council held a number of meetings in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B. The meetings were held on 24 March 2005 (5150th), 19 January 2006 (5349th), 12 December 2006 (5585th) and 11 July 2007 (5715th), respectively.

<sup>1</sup> S/2004/3, submitted pursuant to resolution 1514 (2003).

draft resolution;<sup>3</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1527 (2004), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of MINUCI should be extended until 27 February 2004;

Decided to renew until 27 February 2004 the authorization given to Member States participating in ECOWAS forces together with French forces supporting them;

Called on the signatories of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement to carry out expeditiously their responsibilities under the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement; requested the Secretary-General, pending a decision by the Security Council on the reinforcement of United Nations presence in Côte d'Ivoire, to prepare the possible deployment of a peacekeeping operation within five weeks after such decision by the Council.

**Decision of 27 February 2004 (4918th meeting):  
resolution 1528 (2004)**

At its 4918th meeting, on 27 February 2004, the Council again included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on MINUCI.<sup>4</sup> In an addendum to the report dated 9 February 2004,<sup>5</sup> the Secretary-General presented the findings and recommendations of a small United Nations technical team which had recently visited Côte d'Ivoire to collect more detailed information regarding the civilian police and judicial component of the proposed United Nations peacekeeping operation. On the basis of those findings, the Secretary-General recommended that (a) a total of 350 United Nations civilian police officers be deployed in Côte d'Ivoire in a phased manner; (b) a small judicial unit, comprising up to five international staff members, be established to support the re-establishment of the administration of justice in all areas affected by the conflict; and (c) a corrections unit, comprising one international staff member and eight seconded corrections officers, be established to support efforts at re-establishing the prison system in the north and strengthening the system in the south.

The Secretary-General made a statement.<sup>6</sup> The President (China) drew the attention of the Council to a

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<sup>3</sup> S/2004/82.

<sup>4</sup> S/2004/3 and Add.1 and 2.

<sup>5</sup> S/2004/3/Add.1.

<sup>6</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate in the meeting but did not make a statement.

draft resolution;<sup>7</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1528 (2004), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to establish the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for an initial period of 12 months as from 4 April 2004;

Decided to renew the mandate of MINUCI until that date;

Decided that UNOCI would comprise a military strength of a maximum of 6,240 United Nations personnel, including 200 military observers and 120 staff officers, and up to 350 civilian police officers;

Decided that the mandate of UNOCI should be: monitoring of the ceasefire and movement of armed forces, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement, protection of United Nations personnel, institutions and civilians, support for humanitarian assistance, support for the implementation of the peace process, assistance in the field of human rights, public information and law and order;

Authorized UNOCI to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate;

Requested the Secretary-General and the Government of National Reconciliation to conclude a status-of-forces agreement within 30 days;

Decided to renew until 4 April 2004 the authorization given to the French forces and ECOWAS forces through its resolution 1527 (2004);

Authorized for a period of 12 months from 4 April 2004 the French forces to use all necessary means in order to support UNOCI.

After the adoption of resolution 1528 (2004), the Secretary-General welcomed the significant steps recently taken by the Ivorian parties in the right direction, but warned that some hard-line elements in Côte d'Ivoire remained determined to undermine the peace process. He affirmed that a strengthened United Nations presence in Côte d'Ivoire would help the Government of National Reconciliation to implement the programme of demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and repatriation, facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance and the restoration of State authority throughout the country, and contribute to the promotion of human rights, the re-establishment of the rule of law and the preparation for the holding of fair and transparent general elections in 2005.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> S/2004/146.

<sup>8</sup> S/PV.4918, pp. 2-3.

**Decision of 30 April 2004 (4959th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 4959th meeting, on 30 April 2004, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Germany) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>9</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its grave concern at the events which had occurred in Côte d'Ivoire at the end of March and at the current impasse in the peace process defined in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement;

Decided to deploy UNOCI to support the process of peaceful settlement of the crisis, which was to culminate in 2005 with the organization of free, fair and transparent elections.

**Decision of 25 May 2004 (4977th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 4977th meeting, on 25 May 2004, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Pakistan) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>10</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reiterated its grave concern at the events which had occurred in Côte d'Ivoire at the end of March and at the current impasse in the peace process defined in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement;

Reaffirmed the individual responsibility of each of the Ivorian actors to ensure the full implementation of the Agreement;

Reiterated its complete readiness to take any necessary further steps, against individuals who blocked the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement;

Strongly condemned the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in Côte d'Ivoire and expressed its determination to ensure that those responsible for all these violations were identified and that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire brought them to justice;

Reaffirmed the urgency of disbanding militias and armed groups and proceeding with operations to regroup the opposing forces in order to permit the start of disarmament and demobilization which must precede their reintegration into the regular army or civilian life;

Firmly rejected the assertion that disarmament could be delayed until after the 2005 elections and called on all parties to move immediately to begin this process.

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<sup>9</sup> S/PRST/2004/12.

<sup>10</sup> S/PRST/2004/17.

**Decision of 5 August 2004 (5018th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5018th meeting, on 5 August 2004, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Russian Federation) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>11</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Welcomed the signature, on 30 July 2004 in Accra, by all the political forces of Côte d'Ivoire, of an agreement (the "Accra III Agreement") that consolidated the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis process;

Welcomed the concrete measures agreed upon by the signatories of the Accra III Agreement;

Urged the parties to adhere strictly to the deadlines that had been fixed, in particular to settle the issue of the eligibility to the Presidency of the Republic and to start the disarmament;

Urged all parties to implement, in good faith, the obligations they had undertaken in signing the Accra III Agreement;

Took note with profound concern of the preliminary results of the investigation led by UNOCI on the massacres that had occurred in Korhogo;

Reiterated its full support for the international commission of inquiry put in place by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in order to establish the facts and circumstances of the perpetration of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which had occurred in Côte d'Ivoire since 19 September 2002, and, as far as possible, to identify their authors.

**Decision of 6 November 2004 (5072nd meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5072nd meeting, on 6 November 2004, the Council invited the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (United States) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 6 November 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council, in which the Secretary-General, recalling resolution 1528 (2004) by which the Council had established UNOCI under Chapter VII of the Charter and set out the mandate of the Operation, urged the Council to confirm that UNOCI was authorized to use all necessary means, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, to prevent any hostile action within the Zone of Confidence.<sup>12</sup> The

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<sup>11</sup> S/PRST/2004/29.

<sup>12</sup> S/2004/886.

President then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>13</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Condemned the attack against the French forces in Bouaké on 6 November 2004;

Further condemned any effort by any party to send forces through the Zone of Confidence; demanded the immediate cessation of all military operations;

Expressed its full support for the action taken by French forces and UNOCI and confirmed that they were authorized to use all necessary means to carry out fully their mandate;

Strongly recalled the obligations of all Ivorian parties to refrain from any violence against civilians and to cooperate fully with UNOCI.

**Decision of 15 November 2004 (5078th meeting): resolution 1572 (2004)**

At the 5078th meeting, on 15 November 2004, the President (United States) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by Chile, France, Germany, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States,<sup>14</sup> a letter dated 10 November 2004 from the representative of the Gambia to the President of the Council,<sup>15</sup> and a letter dated 9 November 2004 from the representative of Nigeria to the President of the Council.<sup>16</sup> Statements were made by the representatives of China, France and Angola.<sup>17</sup>

The draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1572 (2004), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Condemned the air strikes committed by the national armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire and demanded that all Ivorian parties to the conflict fully comply with the ceasefire;

Demanded that Ivorian authorities stop all radio and television broadcasting inciting hatred and violence;

Decided that all States should, for 13 months from the date of adoption of the resolution, take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Côte d'Ivoire, from their territories or by their nationals, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms or any related materiel, as well as any assistance related to military activities;

Decided that all States should, for 12 months, prevent the entry into or the transit through their territories of all persons designated as a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire;

Decided that all States should, for the same period of 12 months, freeze the funds, other financial assets and economic resources owned or controlled by the persons identified previously above;

Decided that, at the end of 13 months, the Security Council should review these measures imposed;

Decided to establish a Committee of the Security Council consisting of all members of the Council to undertake the tasks;

Requested all States to report to the Committee actions taken to implement the measures imposed;

Decided that the measures imposed should enter into force on 15 December 2004 unless the Security Council determined before then that the signatories of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements were embarked towards full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.

After the adoption of resolution 1572 (2004), the representative of China explained that his country favoured further Council action in the light of the serious situation in Côte d'Ivoire, but at the same time believed that the objective of such action should be to encourage the various parties to comply with the ceasefire and to resume the peace process. On the basis of that principle and taking into account the views of the States members of the African Union, he had voted for the resolution.<sup>18</sup> The representative of France held that the resolution aimed to promote the only political solution that the Council had supported, namely implementation by all the Ivorian parties of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements. He held that the Council should act immediately by adopting an arms embargo and deciding on a mechanism for individual sanctions if the commitments made by the parties had not been honoured by 15 December 2004. He opined that by adopting resolution 1572 (2004), the Council had demonstrated the intention to support the initiatives of ECOWAS and the African Union and that

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<sup>13</sup> S/PRST/2004/42.

<sup>14</sup> S/2004/892.

<sup>15</sup> S/2004/895, in which the representative of the Gambia, on behalf of the African Group, appealed to the members of the Council to reconsider their proposal of imposing punitive measures against Côte d'Ivoire and to allow more time for the ongoing diplomatic efforts of the African Union to come to fruition.

<sup>16</sup> S/2004/896, transmitting a communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 8 November 2004 concerning the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>17</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate in the meeting but did not make a statement.

<sup>18</sup> S/PV.5078, p. 2.

Côte d'Ivoire must move forward towards the elections in October 2005.<sup>19</sup> For his part, the representative of Angola held the view that, since the situation in Côte d'Ivoire remained tense and fragile, the Council should pressure the concerned parties in a manner that would not radicalize their positions but instead continue to stimulate dialogue among them. He stressed that the main and only objective of resolution 1572 (2004) should be bringing the parties back to the process of the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements by assisting them in finding the appropriate way to calm the ongoing tension.<sup>20</sup>

**Decision of 16 December 2004 (5103rd meeting): statement by the President**

At its 5103rd meeting, on 16 December 2004, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Algeria) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>21</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reaffirmed its conviction that the full implementation of resolution 1572 (2004) was a key element in ensuring that all Ivorian parties committed themselves fully to the implementation of the peace and national reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire;

Requested the Committee established by resolution 1572 (2004) to continue its work, taking fully into account the developments of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire arising from the facilitation efforts undertaken by the African Union;

Demanded that all Ivorian parties stop all incitement to violence and hatred in broadcast, written and other media, and called upon the Committee to monitor this closely without delay;

Also demanded that all Ivorian parties ensure freedom of the press and unlimited access to information throughout Côte d'Ivoire;

Expressed its intention to consider without delay further steps to ensure the effective monitoring and implementation of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1572 (2004).

**Decision of 1 February 2005 (5118th meeting): resolution 1584 (2005)**

At the 5118th meeting, on 1 February 2005, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the President (Benin) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by

Denmark, France, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States.<sup>22</sup> The draft resolution was subsequently put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1584 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Authorized UNOCI and the French forces which supported it to monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by resolution 1572 (2004), including by inspecting the cargo of aircraft and of any transport vehicle using the ports, airports, airfields, military bases and border crossings of Côte d'Ivoire; and to collect, as appropriate, arms and any related materiel brought into Côte d'Ivoire and to dispose of such arms and related materiel as appropriate;

Requested the French forces to provide, as appropriate, security assistance to UNOCI;

Demanded that all Ivorian parties provide unhindered access to UNOCI and French forces which supported it to enable them to carry out their tasks;

Requested the Secretary-General to create, within 30 days, and for a period of six months, a group of experts consisting of no more than three members to examine and analyse information gathered by UNOCI and the French forces in the context of the monitoring mandate;

Requested the Secretary-General and the Government of France to communicate as appropriate to the Security Council, through the Committee, information gathered by UNOCI and, when possible, reviewed by the Group of Experts, about the supply of arms and related materiel to Côte d'Ivoire;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 4 April 2005 (5159th meeting): resolution 1594 (2005)**

On 18 March 2005, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council the fourth progress report on UNOCI.<sup>23</sup> In that report, the Secretary-General noted with concern that the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire remained precarious since the November 2004 crisis, with a marked increase in dangerous activities by militia-type groups. Recalling that the President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, had been leading an Africa Union mediation mission to promote the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, the Secretary-General reiterated his appeal to President Gbagbo, the Forces nouvelles and the leaders of all Ivorian political movements to demonstrate the necessary political will and carry out the African Union plan of action without further delay

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<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> S/PRST/2004/48.

<sup>22</sup> S/2005/54.

<sup>23</sup> S/2005/186, submitted pursuant to resolution 1528 (2004).

or risk the possibility of renewed hostilities. With respect to the elections scheduled for October 2005, the Secretary-General was concerned that the time remaining for their proper organization was rapidly running out and that further delays could increasingly jeopardize the holding of the elections. Noting that certain parties had asked for an enhanced United Nations role in the electoral process, he made it clear that such requests required the agreement of all Ivorian parties. The Secretary-General stated that while the UNOCI and French forces would continue to complement each other in providing security in support of the peace process, additional resources were required for UNOCI to discharge effectively its expanded mandate and to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel. As such, he reiterated his request that the Council approve the additional military, civilian police and civilian resources proposed in his third progress report on UNOCI.<sup>24</sup> It was also crucial that UNOCI would be provided with the requisite technical capacity and other resources to enhance its effectiveness in monitoring the arms embargo. He further recommended that the mandate of UNOCI be extended for a period of 12 months until 4 April 2006. Finally, the Secretary-General emphasized that the Ivorian leaders bore full responsibility for finding a way out of the crisis and must make the hard decisions and visionary compromises that were urgently required. Those who failed to accept this responsibility should face firm actions by the international community, including implementation of the individual measures envisaged in resolution 1572 (2004). The Secretary-General urged the Council to regularly gauge the effect of that resolution on the ground, stressing the importance for the Council to send a clear message that it would not tolerate any incitement to provoke or attack the UNOCI and French forces.

At its 5152nd meeting, on 28 March 2005, the Council included in its agenda the fourth progress report on UNOCI<sup>23</sup> and heard briefings by the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa. Following the briefings, statements were made by all members of the Council as well as by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>24</sup> S/2004/962.

The Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire had not made any significant progress since November 2004 and suggested that the Council should consider the use of all provisions of resolution 1572 (2004) to support the next key steps of the peace process. He was concerned at increasing uncertainty about whether the general elections could be held in 2005 according to the agreed timetable, warning that failure to do so could lead to a greater crisis. Recalling that UNOCI had been entrusted additional responsibilities under resolution 1584 (2005) and stressing that the present strength of UNOCI was a cause of serious concern, the Principal Deputy Special Representative reiterated the requests by the Secretary-General to reinforce UNOCI and extend its mandate. Meanwhile, he was deeply concerned at the continuing serious human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire and hoped that the Council would promptly give all the necessary attention to the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into allegations of serious violations of human rights in the country.<sup>25</sup>

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa observed that in the wake of the attacks carried out by the Ivorian Air Force against the Forces nouvelles from 4 to 6 November 2004, the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire seemed to have reached a cul-de-sac. As a result, the Chairperson of the African Union asked President Mbeki of South Africa to act as the mediator of the African Union to expedite the Ivorian peace process. After having considered the interventions that had been made since 2002 to resolve the Ivorian crisis and engage the entire spectrum of the Ivorian political leadership, the African Union mediation had reached three conclusions: first, as mandated, it should seek a solution of the Ivorian crisis within the framework of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra II and III Agreements; secondly, it should work out a road map with specific time frames and a variety of steps to put the Ivorian peace process back on course; and, thirdly, all the Ivorian parties should agree to those propositions and commit themselves to a peaceful and negotiated resolution. The Deputy Minister stressed that the peace settlement of the Ivorian crisis required the cooperation and involvement of all the Ivorian leaders. It was therefore vital that the international community operated on the basis of the principle and practice of inclusion rather than that of

<sup>25</sup> S/PV.5152, pp. 2-5.

exclusion, and that the Security Council and the African Union considered imposing effective sanctions against those spoilers who acted wilfully to obstruct the peace process. The Deputy Minister further stressed that the fundamental and long-term solution to the Ivorian crisis required addressing issues that bore on nationality, political rights, the land question and coexistence in a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. In that connection, he informed the Council that the road map for the Ivorian peace process was jointly drawn up by the African Union mediation and the representatives of the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He added that a critical meeting between President Mbeki and the principal political leaders of Côte d'Ivoire would take place in South Africa on 3 April 2005 in order to resolve the outstanding challenges concerning the implementation of the road map. Finally, the Deputy Minister noted that the African Union mediation had welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation regarding the emergency deployment of an additional 1,226 troops to Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>26</sup>

In the subsequent discussion, the Council members expressed deep concern at the serious situation in Côte d'Ivoire, notably the impasse in the political process, the deteriorating security climate, the continuing delays in the preparations for the elections and the widespread culture of impunity. They urged the Ivorian parties to implement in full their commitments under the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements in the best interest of the Ivorian people and the Ivorian State. In that context, a number of speakers held that the Council must stand ready to take firmer action against those individuals who obstructed the peace process and violated human rights, including by imposing sanctions envisaged in resolution 1572 (2004) against them.<sup>27</sup> Noting that the increased lawlessness in Côte d'Ivoire was the result of the culture of impunity, the representative of Denmark urged the Council to carefully study the findings of the International Commission of Inquiry and make the report, without the annex, publicly available.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-10.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., p. 11 (Romania); p. 12 (Benin); p. 18 (Japan); p. 20 (Argentina, Greece); p. 22 (United Kingdom); and p. 24 (Brazil).

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., p. 23.

Members spoke highly of the ongoing African Union mediation led by President Mbeki and promised to continue to support its future efforts. They looked forward to the holding of the meeting in Pretoria between President Mbeki and the key Ivorian political leaders on 3 April, hoping that the meeting would lead to positive outcomes. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania observed that a main challenge for supporting the African Union mediation was to formulate appropriate incentives to sustain the current peaceful political atmosphere of compromise and to move towards a situation in which all parties had a shared stake. He called on the Council to work with President Mbeki to identify and apply the appropriate mix of incentives and other measures in the context of previous Council resolutions.<sup>29</sup> For their part, the representatives of Japan and Argentina stressed the importance of the Council being regularly informed of the developments in the mediation process.<sup>30</sup>

Voicing concern at the delays in the preparations for the elections as a result of the ongoing political tensions, a number of speakers underlined that everything possible had to be done to ensure the holding of the elections as scheduled;<sup>31</sup> the representative of Brazil noted that the elections could be held only if there was sufficient security on the ground and if certain preconditions were met, including the adoption of relevant legislation and the disarmament of the rebels and militias.<sup>32</sup> In addition, various members stated that to achieve lasting peace an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme must be launched,<sup>33</sup> the parties ought to refrain from inciting hatred and violence and spreading disinformation in the media,<sup>34</sup> and the dire humanitarian situation should be addressed.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., p. 14.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., p. 18 (Japan); and p. 20 (Argentina).

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., p. 11 (Romania); p. 12 (Benin); p. 16 (France); p. 17 (Algeria); pp. 18-19 (Russian Federation); and p. 21 (Philippines).

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., p. 24.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (Benin); p. 14 (United Republic of Tanzania); p. 15 (France); p. 17 (Algeria); p. 19 (Russian Federation, Argentina); and p. 21 (Philippines).

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (Benin); p. 15 (France); p. 18 (Japan); p. 19 (Russian Federation); p. 23 (Denmark); and p. 24 (Brazil).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (Benin); p. 15 (United States); p. 18 (Japan); and p. 19 (Russian Federation).

Many members held that UNOCI must be strengthened to effectively discharge its increased mandate and expressed support for the recommendation of the Secretary-General on reinforcing UNOCI.<sup>36</sup> However, while asserting that UNOCI should consider using all the tools at its disposal, the representative of the United States continued to question the utility of expanding the strength of UNOCI beyond its current mandate when the parties had not shown political will to move the peace process forward.<sup>37</sup> For his part, the representative of Japan called for further discussions on the appropriate force level of UNOCI so as to best optimize the peacekeeping operation assets and resources that were deployed and available in the subregion of West Africa as a whole.<sup>38</sup> In the meantime, although many members supported the extension of the UNOCI mandate for an additional period of 12 months as requested by the Secretary-General,<sup>39</sup> the representative of France proposed that the mandate be extended for one month, until 4 May 2005, so that the Council would have sufficient time to consider the results of the meeting in Pretoria.<sup>40</sup> Concurring with such a rollover of the mandate of UNOCI, the representative of the United Kingdom underlined the importance of the Council ensuring that its strategy in Côte d'Ivoire, the strength and mandate, the rules of engagement and the tasks given to UNOCI were all fully consistent with one another.<sup>41</sup>

Stating that his intervention was aimed “merely to ensure a balance of information”, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire affirmed that the general tone of the Secretary-General's report<sup>42</sup> apparently showed “a considerable degree of sympathy for the point of view and attitude of the Forces nouvelles, the former rebels and opposition parties, while the position of the legitimate authorities is systematically called into question”. He cautioned that such an approach risked

“offering comfort to the former rebels in their intention to change the institutions of the country by violence and encouraging other rebellions in the subregion to develop”. He specifically took issue with the contents of paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 13, 17, 21, 22 and 35 of the Secretary-General's report. Meanwhile, the representative noted that his Government would announce its decision with regard to the modalities for the renewal of the mandate of UNOCI following the meeting in Pretoria on 3 April. The decision would take account of the outcome of that important meeting, he added, while hoping that the international community would follow suit.<sup>43</sup> In response, the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General stressed that the Secretary-General's report simply described what had actually happened without any comments and represented views based on the understanding of the spirit of the various agreements concerning Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>44</sup>

In his further statement, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa held that good progress had actually been made in certain areas in the last few months. The current question was how to ensure a quicker implementation of the key agreements, particularly with regard to the amendment of article 35 of the Constitution, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the elections. The Deputy Minister hoped that, at the meeting in Pretoria on 3 April, the Ivorian leaders, while sitting together for the first time since the outbreak of the crisis, would agree to make a decisive leap forward so that a breakthrough could be soon achieved.<sup>45</sup>

At its 5159th meeting, on 4 April 2005, the Council again included in its agenda the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>46</sup> and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (China) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>47</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1594 (2005) by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., p. 11 (Romania); p. 13 (Benin); p. 14 (United Republic of Tanzania); p. 15 (France); p. 17 (Algeria); p. 19 (Russian Federation); p. 20 (Greece); p. 23 (Denmark); and p. 24 (Brazil).

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 18.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., p. 13 (Benin, China); p. 14 (United Republic of Tanzania); p. 19 (Russian Federation); p. 20 (Argentina); p. 21 (Philippines); p. 23 (Denmark); and p. 24 (Brazil).

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 22.

<sup>42</sup> S/2005/186.

<sup>43</sup> S/PV.5152, pp. 24-26.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., pp. 26-27.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., pp. 27-28.

<sup>46</sup> S/2005/186.

<sup>47</sup> S/2005/221.

Decided that the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it should be extended for one month until 4 May 2005;

Called upon all Ivorian parties immediately and actively to pursue a lasting and just solution to the current crisis, particularly through the African Union mediation led by President Thabo Mbeki;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 4 May 2005 (5173rd meeting):  
resolution 1600 (2005)**

At the 5169th meeting, on 26 April 2005, the President (China) drew attention to a letter dated 25 April 2005 from the representative of South Africa to the President of the Council.<sup>48</sup> The Council then heard briefings by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa and the representative of Nigeria, following which statements were made by all Council members and by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa said he was pleased to note that the three-day meeting in Pretoria between the African Union mediator, President Thabo Mbeki, and the five main Ivorian political leaders had culminated in the signing of the Pretoria Agreement, which provided new hope to the Ivorian people and brought a new urgency to the implementation of previous undertakings. He recalled that the meeting was held in a very cordial and relaxed atmosphere, which in itself was a significant achievement, and a number of key issues had been addressed, such as the declaration of an immediate and final cessation of all hostilities in Côte d'Ivoire, the commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the finalization of the amendment of article 35 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire. The Deputy Minister reported that, as requested by the Pretoria Agreement, the mediator had communicated his determination on article 35 to the Ivorian leaders. President Gbagbo subsequently undertook extensive consultations with a wide range of interlocutors, the emerging central message from which was that he should use article 48 to effect the amendment of the Constitution as determined by the

mediator. Among other progresses, the Deputy Minister noted that FANCI and the Forces nouvelles had agreed to commence the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process on 15 May 2005; that an increasing number of ministers from the Forces nouvelles had returned to Abidjan to assume their ministerial responsibilities; and that Ivorian Radio and Television had toned down its negative reporting and begun to broadcast positive reports on the Pretoria Agreement. In the meantime, the Deputy Minister highlighted that the Ivorian parties had asked the United Nations to urgently assist them in the areas of elections and security. On the issue of elections, he recalled that the Ivorian leadership had requested the United Nations to immediately establish an impartial structure that would assist the entire electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire and intervene with the relevant Ivorian authorities where necessary. On the issue of security, he clarified that the Ivorian leaders had asked for assistance in three areas, namely, the protection of the Forces nouvelles cantonment sites; the recruitment, training and deployment of a police contingent of 600 personnel in the north to avoid a security vacuum after the cantonment of the Forces nouvelles; and the disarmament of the militias. The Deputy Minister maintained that the Council should adjust the mandate of UNOCI to cater for the election supervision mechanism and support the disarmament of the militias, as well as to strengthen UNOCI in order for it to carry out the additional tasks emanating from the Pretoria Agreement. In conclusion, stressing that the international community should provide adequate and immediate funding for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the Deputy Minister implored the Council to take the necessary decisions and steps to ensure the holding of the elections as agreed. The African Union stood ready to act together with the Council in that regard, he noted, opining that achieving peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire would have a positive impact on other countries that were emerging from conflict and attempting to work towards creating conditions for their elections.<sup>49</sup>

Speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the African Union, the President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, held that the Pretoria Agreement marked an important milestone in the African Union's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Ivorian crisis and that it

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<sup>48</sup> S/2005/270, transmitting the Pretoria Agreement on the Peace Process in Côte d'Ivoire and the letter of determination on article 35 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire from the African Union mediator addressed to the Ivorian leaders.

<sup>49</sup> S/PV.5169, pp. 2-5 and p. 20.

was high time for all stakeholders to take concrete actions. He held that the Council ought to strengthen the United Nations presence in Côte d'Ivoire to make it visible throughout the country, and to endorse the Pretoria Agreement and the mediator's ruling on article 35 of the Constitution. He further urged the Council to review and expand the mandate of UNOCI urgently so that the mission could help actualize the commitments undertaken by the Ivorian parties.<sup>50</sup>

The Council members welcomed the signing of the Pretoria Agreement on 6 April 2005 as a significant achievement and urged all parties concerned to make every effort to implement fully and effectively the provisions of the Agreement. In that context, several speakers stressed that the Pretoria Agreement complemented the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements and that the provisions of all those agreements should be implemented.<sup>51</sup> The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania urged the media in Côte d'Ivoire to support the recent peace accomplishments and sustain their current positive tone in a spirit of national reconciliation.<sup>52</sup> The representative of the United States noted that a real cessation of violence was vital for the Agreement to succeed.<sup>53</sup> The representative of Algeria believed that the likely obstacles to the implementation of the Agreement would be easier to overcome if the African Union mediation continued to be supported and trusted by the international community.<sup>54</sup>

For the peace process to move forward, various members highlighted the importance of holding free and fair elections as scheduled;<sup>55</sup> finalizing the amendment of article 35 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire at an early date;<sup>56</sup> and quickly commencing and implementing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.<sup>57</sup> On elections, the

representative of the United Kingdom held that it would be important to measure progress against the benchmarks set by the United Nations.<sup>58</sup> On article 35, the representative of France hoped that the expected decision on the amendment of the article by President Gbagbo would make it possible to overcome this major obstacle of the peace process once and for all.<sup>59</sup> On the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the representative of Algeria pointed out that international financial and technical assistance was critical to bring the process to a successful conclusion.<sup>60</sup>

Several representatives emphasized that the Council should continue to monitor the implementation of the sanctions regime against Côte d'Ivoire given the lack of progress on the ground.<sup>61</sup> While noting that it was not a priority to move forward on sanctions in the light of the signing of the Pretoria Agreement, the representative of the United Kingdom held that sanctions had been important in keeping the Ivorian peace process on track.<sup>62</sup> The representative of Japan considered it not appropriate to immediately apply targeted sanctions against individuals since the Ivorian parties had shown their readiness to revitalize the peace process through the Pretoria Agreement.<sup>63</sup> The representative of Greece underlined the importance of the parties in Côte d'Ivoire and the countries of the region cooperating with the Group of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1584 (2005).<sup>64</sup>

A number of members held that the capacity of UNOCI must be strengthened to meet its increased mandate in support of implementation of the Pretoria Agreement and noted in that regard their readiness to favourably consider the reinforcement of UNOCI.<sup>65</sup> Recalling that the rationale for the previously proposed reinforcement of 1,200 personnel had been based on the deteriorating security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-6.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., p. 5 (France); p. 10 (Japan); p. 11 (Romania); and p. 15 (Greece).

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., p. 8 (United Kingdom); p. 9 (Benin); p. 10 (Algeria); p. 11 (Japan); p. 12 (Romania); p. 13 (Brazil); and p. 18 (China).

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France); p. 10 (Algeria); p. 13 (Russian Federation); p. 14 (Denmark); p. 15 (Greece); p. 16 (United Republic of Tanzania); p. 17 (United States); and p. 18 (Philippines).

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France, United Kingdom); p. 10 (Algeria);

p. 15 (Greece); p. 16 (United Republic of Tanzania); p. 17 (United States); and p. 18 (China).

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., p. 7.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (Romania, Argentina); p. 14 (Denmark); and p. 17 (United States).

<sup>62</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France); p. 9 (Benin); p. 11 (Japan); p. 12 (Romania, Argentina); p. 14 (Denmark); and p. 16 (United Republic of Tanzania).

representative of the United Kingdom urged members to adjust their expectations, taking into account the developments on the ground following the signing of the Pretoria Agreement. He further stressed the need for an evolving strategy for the peacekeeping operation to be gradually replaced by policing and by the Ivorians carrying it out themselves.<sup>66</sup>

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire confirmed that the Pretoria Agreement was being implemented by all its signatories. He called for close cooperation between the various Ivorian parties and the international community for the success of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, which had recently been relaunched after a suspension for several months. He informed the Council that on 27 April President Gbagbo was scheduled to make a statement on article 35 of the Constitution to the nation in support of peace. He stated that his country would appreciate receiving electoral expertise and assistance from the United Nations in accordance with the terms of the Constitution. Finally, the representative hoped that in its future draft resolutions on African crisis situations the Council would take into account the reality on the ground, as well as the need to standardize the command structures of impartial forces engaged in peacekeeping in Africa, which would strengthen the impartiality of the forces and create the conditions for trust.<sup>67</sup>

At its 5173rd meeting, on 4 May 2005, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the Council again included in its agenda the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>68</sup> and a letter dated 25 April 2005 from the representative of South Africa to the President of the Council.<sup>69</sup> The President (Denmark) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>70</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1600 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter; inter alia:

Called on all parties to implement fully the Pretoria Agreement of 6 April 2005;

Urged all the Ivorian parties to take all necessary steps to ensure that the forthcoming general elections were free, fair and

transparent; decided that the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it should be extended for one month, until 4 June 2005;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 3 June 2005 (5194th meeting):  
resolution 1603 (2005)**

At its 5194th meeting, on 3 June 2005, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the Council again included in its agenda the fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI.<sup>71</sup> The President (France) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution,<sup>72</sup> as well as two letters from the representative of South Africa to the President of the Council, dated 25 April 2005<sup>73</sup> and 23 May 2005,<sup>74</sup> respectively. The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1603 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Endorsed the Pretoria Agreement and demanded that all the signatories to the agreement and all the Ivorian parties concerned implement it fully and without delay;

Demanded that all the Ivorian parties take all necessary steps to ensure that the forthcoming general elections were free, fair and transparent; requested the Secretary-General, on the basis of the Pretoria Agreement, to designate, as an exceptional arrangement, after consultations with the African Union and President Thabo Mbeki, a High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, autonomous from UNOCI, to assist in particular in the work of the Independent Electoral Commission and of the Constitutional Council, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

Decided that the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it should be extended until 24 June 2005, with a view to renewing it, in this specific instance, for a period of seven months.

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<sup>71</sup> S/2005/186.

<sup>72</sup> S/2005/359.

<sup>73</sup> S/2005/270.

<sup>74</sup> S/2005/340, written on behalf of President Thabo Mbeki, in his capacity as African Union mediator for the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, who requested the United Nations to participate in the organization of general elections in Côte d'Ivoire pursuant to the Pretoria Agreement and hoped that the Security Council would soon agree on the appointment of a competent authority to guarantee transparency and the strict respect of the rules governing the elections.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid., pp. 7-8.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., pp. 19-20.

<sup>68</sup> S/2005/186.

<sup>69</sup> S/2005/270.

<sup>70</sup> S/2005/282.

**Decision of 24 June 2005 (5213th meeting):  
resolution 1609 (2005)**

At its 5213th meeting, on 24 June 2005, the Council included in its agenda the fifth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI, dated 17 June 2005.<sup>75</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General noted that since the signing of the Pretoria Agreement on 6 April 2005, some progress had been made towards its implementation, notably the resolution of the issue concerning eligibility for the presidency, the agreement on the timing and modalities of the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the removal by FANCI and the Forces nouvelles of their heavy weapons from the Zone of Confidence and the approval and implementation of the provisions regarding the statute and management of Ivorian Radio and Television. At the same time, other key provisions of the Agreement had yet to be swiftly implemented, particularly with regard to the restoration of the full integrity of the Government of National Reconciliation and the preparations for the first round of the presidential elections. The Secretary-General said that UNOCI must be urgently reinforced so that it had the capacity to effectively carry out its mandated responsibilities as well as those tasks envisaged for it under the Pretoria Agreement. He therefore requested the Council to authorize the deployment of an additional 2,076 troops and three formed police units comprising 375 officers to assist in the provision of security and the maintenance of law and order during the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and electoral processes, along with a limited reinforcement in the civilian component of the mission.<sup>76</sup>

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (France) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>77</sup> it was subsequently put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1609 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided that the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it should be extended, in this specific instance, for a period of seven months, until 24 January 2006;

Authorized an increase in the military component of UNOCI of up to 850 additional personnel as well as an increase in the civilian police component of up to a ceiling of 725 civilian police personnel, including three formed police units, and the necessary additional civilian personnel;

Decided to review the troop levels of UNOCI by 31 December 2005, including the civilian police component, in the light of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire after the forthcoming general elections and on the basis of the tasks remaining to be carried out, with a view to further reduction as appropriate;

Authorized UNOCI to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

Authorized from the date of adoption of the resolution the French forces to use all necessary means in order to support UNOCI in accordance with the agreement reached between UNOCI and the French authorities.

**Decision of 6 July 2005 (5221st meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5221st meeting, on 6 July 2005, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Greece) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>78</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Welcomed the efforts undertaken by the African Union mediation so that the forthcoming elections in Côte d'Ivoire were credible and held as planned, and reiterated its full support to the African Union mediator; recalled that it had endorsed the Pretoria Agreement signed on 6 April 2005; and demanded that all the signatories to the Agreement and all the Ivorian parties concerned implement fully and without delay all the commitments made with the African Union mediation and complied scrupulously with the timetable agreed on 29 June 2005 in Pretoria;

Affirmed that it stood ready, in close consultation with the African Union mediation, to implement individual sanctions provided for in paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572 (2004) against those who did not comply with those commitments or constituted an obstacle to their full implementation.

**Decision of 14 October 2005 (5281st meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the 5278th meeting,<sup>79</sup> on 13 October 2005, the President (Romania) drew the attention of the Council

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<sup>78</sup> S/PRST/2005/28.

<sup>79</sup> At its 5253rd meeting, held in private on 31 August 2005, the Council heard briefings by the Minister of Defence of South Africa, the representative of Nigeria (representing the Chairman of the African Union) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for

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<sup>75</sup> S/2005/398 and Add.1, submitted pursuant to resolution 1528 (2004).

<sup>76</sup> S/2005/398.

<sup>77</sup> S/2005/409.

members to a letter dated 6 October 2005 from the representative of Nigeria to the President of the Council.<sup>80</sup> The Council heard briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, the Commissioner of the African Union Commission, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and the High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, following which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire made a statement.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria was concerned about the potentially explosive situation in Côte d'Ivoire, noting that it had become increasingly clear that the transition period envisaged in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement could not be completed with the expected holding of elections on 30 October 2005. It was therefore urgently necessary for the international community to consider ways and means to manage the situation on the ground after that date. In that context, the Minister recalled that both the African Union Peace and Security Council and ECOWAS had recently held summits to address the Ivorian crisis and made decisions concerning the possible developments in Côte d'Ivoire provided that no elections would be held by 30 October 2005. He reiterated the request by the Peace and Security Council that the Council consider a substantial increase in the strength of UNOCI so that it could effectively take up increased responsibilities. The current authorized troop levels of UNOCI, he noted, were "far too low" for a credible disarmament in Côte d'Ivoire to be achieved. In closing, the Minister appealed to the Council to act with the same sense of urgency as demonstrated by the Peace and Security Council and ECOWAS by promptly endorsing their decisions on Côte d'Ivoire as well as by strengthening UNOCI. He also stressed the need to ensure that all the structures that were essential for the governance of Côte d'Ivoire after 30 October 2005 must be put in place before that date.<sup>81</sup>

The Commissioner of the African Union Commission informed the Council that the African Union Peace and Security Council had taken a number

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Côte d'Ivoire. Members of the Council and the representative of Côte d'Ivoire exchanged views with the briefers.

<sup>80</sup> S/2005/639, transmitting a communiqué on Côte d'Ivoire issued by the African Union Peace and Security Council held at its 40th meeting, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa on 6 October 2005.

<sup>81</sup> S/PV.5278, pp. 2-4.

of important decisions on Côte d'Ivoire for the period after 30 October 2005, including extending the transitional arrangements contained in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement for a period not exceeding 12 months. The Peace and Security Council had also clarified the role of the international community in support of the Ivorian peace process, particularly that expected of the United Nations. The Commissioner underlined that the decisions of the Peace and Security Council of 6 October 2005 were aimed at injecting new impetus into the peace process through greater determination and involvement by the international community, as well as by greater support for and pressure on the Ivorian parties in the implementation of their commitments and obligations. He called on the Ivorian parties and the international community to take full advantage of the extended transition period to address all outstanding issues. The parties must comply strictly with their commitments and obligations, and the international community should stand ready to exert the necessary pressure and sanctions against defaulting parties. Meanwhile, the role and presence of both UNOCI and the High Representative for elections in Côte d'Ivoire must be strengthened. Finally, the Commissioner urged the Council to support the decisions of the Peace and Security Council and take all other necessary measures to further advance the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>82</sup>

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire observed that the Ivorian leaders had not embraced the new path to peace as identified by the African Union Peace and Security Council. At the same time, several major challenges stood in the way towards lasting peace and security, particularly the rampant insecurity, the stalemate in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and in the preparations for elections, as well as the aggressive media environment. Of particular concern were the continued violations of human rights, which constituted both a cause and a consequence of the Ivorian crisis. He expressed concern at the fact that the perpetrators of those violations had thus far enjoyed near-total impunity and reaffirmed the call by the Secretary-General that the Council should urgently consider the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into allegations of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire. In closing, the Special Representative noted

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<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

that a number of measures ought to be taken to follow up with the decisions of the Peace and Security Council. These included (a) the Peace and Security Council decisions should be endorsed by the Council; (b) an urgent meeting of the international working group aimed at defining a new timetable for the implementation of the remaining provisions of the Pretoria Agreement should be encouraged; (c) a new Ivorian Prime Minister and national Government should be in place as soon as possible; (d) timely recommendations should be made on the role of the National Assembly after its mandate ended in December 2005; (e) President Obasanjo and President Mbeki should be supported in their forthcoming visit to Côte d'Ivoire; and (f) the role of the United Nations needed to be clarified, given the critical and concrete tasks that it was expected to perform in support of the implementation of key aspects of the peace process.<sup>83</sup>

The High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire noted that the key role of the Independent Electoral Commission in conducting the electoral process and clarifying questions regarding nationality, identification and naturalization was confirmed only after a further intervention by the African Union mediator upon his request. Given that the composition of the Commission had been finalized and its bureau was expected to be elected soon, the High Representative held that the most delicate task facing it was the identification question and the criteria for voter eligibility. The High Representative stressed that the electoral work could proceed effectively only in an environment with adequate security throughout the country, as freedom of movement and freedom of thought were indispensable to guarantee truly democratic elections accepted by all. He believed that the proposed extension of the transition for a period not exceeding 12 months was largely sufficient for the preparing and holding of free and fair elections.<sup>84</sup>

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire said that the sixth report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>85</sup> seemed to have failed to sufficiently take into account the fact that Côte d'Ivoire had been at war for three years and that the northern and western half of the country was being occupied by the rebels. In the meantime, he reiterated the commitment of his

Government to ensure safety for goods and persons and freedom of movement for the impartial forces. With regard to the decisions taken by the African Union Peace and Security Council, he indicated that, as the presidential election could not be held as scheduled, primarily because the rebels were still armed and the country was still divided, President Gbagbo would remain in office until the new president was sworn in. He was convinced that the arrangements for government after 30 October 2005 proposed by the Peace and Security Council would make it possible for the peace process to continue, which was currently blocked primarily by the stalled disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. He strongly hoped that the Council would endorse the decisions of the Peace and Security Council and underlined that discussions on a so-called "constitutional vacuum" must be ended so that all the parties could start preparing for free and transparent elections on the basis of the various agreements, particularly the road map provided for in the Pretoria Agreement of 6 April 2005 and the Pretoria Declaration of 29 June 2005.<sup>86</sup>

At the 5281st meeting,<sup>87</sup> on 14 October 2005, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the President (Romania) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>88</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Appreciated the efforts of the African Union, ECOWAS, the leaders of the region, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the High Representative for the elections to promote peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, and reiterated its full support for these efforts;

Endorsed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire adopted at its 40th meeting, held at the level of Heads of State and Government, expressed its intention to take rapidly all necessary measures to support as appropriate its implementation, in order to organize free, fair, open, transparent and credible elections as soon as possible and no later than 30 October 2006;

Reaffirmed that it had endorsed the Linas-Marcoussis, Accra III and Pretoria Agreements and demanded that all the

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9.

<sup>85</sup> S/2005/604, submitted pursuant to resolution 1603 (2005).

<sup>86</sup> S/PV.5278, pp. 9-10.

<sup>87</sup> At the 5279th meeting, held in private on 13 October 2005, members of the Council exchanged views with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, the Commissioner of the African Union Commission, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>88</sup> S/PRST/2005/49.

Ivorian parties signatories to those Agreements, as well as all the Ivorian parties concerned, implement fully and without delay their commitments under those Agreements.

**Decision of 18 October 2005 (5283rd meeting):  
resolution 1632 (2005)**

At its 5283rd meeting, on 18 October 2005, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Romania) then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>89</sup> it was subsequently put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1632 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts to 15 December 2005 and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures;

Requested the Group of Experts to submit a brief written update to the Council, through the Committee established by paragraph 14 of resolution 1572 (2004), before 1 December 2005, on the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 7 of resolution 1572 (2004) and affirmed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1584 (2005), with recommendations in this regard;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 21 October 2005 (5288th meeting):  
resolution 1633 (2005)**

At the 5288th meeting, on 21 October 2005, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the President (Romania) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution,<sup>90</sup> and again to the letter dated 6 October 2005 from the representative of Nigeria to the President of the Council.<sup>91</sup> The draft resolution was subsequently put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1633 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Urged the Chairperson of the African Union, the Chairperson of ECOWAS and the African Union mediator to consult with all the Ivorian parties in order to ensure that a new Prime Minister should be appointed by 31 October 2005;

Stressed that the Prime Minister must have all the necessary powers and all the governmental financial, material and human resources to ensure the effective functioning of the Government, to guarantee security and the redeployment of the

administration and public services throughout the territory of Côte d'Ivoire, to lead the programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the operations of disarmament and dismantling of militias, and to ensure the fairness of the identification process and of voter registration, leading to the organization of free, open, fair and transparent elections, with the support of the United Nations;

Requested the International Working Group to draw up a road map in consultation with all Ivorian parties, with a view to holding free, fair, open and transparent elections as soon as possible and no later than 31 October 2006;

Demanded that all Ivorian parties stop all incitement to hatred and violence in media and disarmament and immediately start dismantling of militias throughout the national territory; urged countries neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire to prevent any cross-border movement of combatants or arms into Côte d'Ivoire.

**Decision of 30 November 2005 (5314th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5314th meeting, on 30 November 2005, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Russian Federation) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>92</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Affirmed that the rapid appointment of a Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire was crucial to relaunch the peace process leading to the holding of free, fair, open and transparent elections no later than 31 October 2006;

Expressed its deep concern at the persistent disagreements among Ivorian parties on the appointment of the Prime Minister and considered that the Prime Minister must be designated without any further delay;

Expressed its full support for the International Working Group, endorsed its final communiqué of 8 November 2005, welcomed its decision to hold its second meeting on 6 December 2005 in Abidjan, and urged the Group to keep the Council informed of the conclusions of its work;

Reaffirmed its readiness, in close consultation with the African Union mediation, to impose individual measures provided for in paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572 (2004) and in resolution 1633 (2005).

**Decision of 9 December 2005 (5318th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5318th meeting, on 9 December 2005, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The

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<sup>89</sup> S/2005/653.

<sup>90</sup> S/2005/661.

<sup>91</sup> S/2005/639 (see footnote 80 above).

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<sup>92</sup> S/PRST/2005/58.

President (United Kingdom) drew the attention of the Council members to a letter dated 8 December 2005 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council.<sup>93</sup> He subsequently made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>94</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Welcomed the appointment of Mr. Charles Konan Banny as Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, and expressed its full support for him;

Endorsed the final communiqué of the International Working Group of 6 December 2005; reaffirmed its support for the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council, which stressed that the ministers should be accountable to the Prime Minister, who should have full authority over his Cabinet;

Recalled and reaffirmed that the Prime Minister must have all the necessary powers and resources described in resolution 1633 (2005), and stressed the importance of the full implementation of the resolution by the Ivorian parties under the monitoring of the International Working Group;

Urged the establishment without delay of the Government so that the Prime Minister could implement as soon as possible the road map defined by the International Working Group, and requested the Mediation Group and the International Working Group to monitor this matter closely;

Reiterated its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the High Representative for the elections.

**Decision of 15 December 2005 (5327th meeting): resolution 1643 (2005)**

At its 5327th meeting, on 15 December 2005, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 7 November 2005 from the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire to the President of the Council, transmitting the final report of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>95</sup> In that report, the Group observed that the defence expenditure of Côte d'Ivoire was high and that the Security Council should call upon the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to submit a comprehensive breakdown of that expenditure for 2005. While the amount of revenue from cocoa production and exports and how it was allocated lacked fiscal transparency, there was no credible evaluation of

current illegal export volumes of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, the Group held that the fruit terminal at Abidjan port was clearly a strategic location for the unloading of military goods and equipment and required increased UNOCI monitoring. The Group also reiterated an observation in its previous report<sup>96</sup> that the Committee needed to clarify as a matter of urgency the situation in which the lack of determination as to the names of individuals or organizations for an asset freeze or travel ban had caused the widespread frustration on the part of Member States at not being able to fully implement resolution 1572 (2004).

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (United Kingdom) drew the attention of the Council to letters from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council dated 28 November 2005<sup>97</sup> and 8 December 2005,<sup>98</sup> respectively, as well as a draft resolution submitted by France.<sup>99</sup> The draft resolution was subsequently put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1643 (2005), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to renew until 15 December 2006 the provisions of paragraphs 7 to 12 of resolution 1572 (2004);

Decided that any attack or serious obstacle to the freedom of movement of UNOCI, the French forces, the High Representative for the elections and the International Working Group constituted a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process, and requested the Secretary-General and the Government of France to report to it immediately any serious obstacle or attack;

Decided that all States should take the necessary measures to prevent the import of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire to their territory; requested all States concerned to report to the Committee, within 90 days, on the actions they had taken to implement resolution 1572 (2004) and the present resolution, and authorized the Committee to request whatever further information it might consider necessary;

Decided that at the end of the period mentioned above, the Council should review the measures imposed by resolution 1572 (2004) and by the present resolution;

Requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to re-establish, within 30 days and for a period of

<sup>93</sup> S/2005/768, transmitting the communiqué issued by the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire following its second meeting, held in Abidjan on 6 December 2005.

<sup>94</sup> S/PRST/2005/60.

<sup>95</sup> S/2005/699; the report was submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1584 (2005).

<sup>96</sup> S/2005/470.

<sup>97</sup> S/2005/744, transmitting the communiqué issued by the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire following its first meeting, held in Abidjan on 8 November 2005.

<sup>98</sup> S/2005/768 (see footnote 93 above).

<sup>99</sup> S/2005/786.

six months, a group of experts consisting of no more than five members, with the appropriate range of expertise, in particular on arms, diamonds, finance, customs, civil aviation and any other relevant expertise;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 19 January 2006 (5350th meeting):  
statement by the President**

On 3 January 2006, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council the seventh progress report on UNOCI.<sup>100</sup> In that report, the Secretary-General observed that the decision of 6 October 2005 of the African Union Peace and Security Council,<sup>101</sup> which had been endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1633 (2005), had helped to prevent a dangerous political and security crisis following the end of President Gbagbo's mandate on 30 October 2005, thereby giving the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire a new lease on life. He welcomed the appointment of Mr. Charles Konan Banny as the new Prime Minister for the transition period and the formation of his Government, but cautioned that the peace process brooked no further delays. In terms of those individuals and groups who obstructed the overall peace process, the Council should consider imposing targeted measures against them. The Secretary-General urged the Prime Minister to work with the International Working Group and the Mediation Group on Côte d'Ivoire to swiftly finalize the road map for the transition period. He further called upon the political parties to work with the Prime Minister and the High Representative for the elections to promptly resolve the ongoing artificially created dispute within the Independent Electoral Commission. He fully supported the view of the International Working Group that, if need be, the High Representative should invoke his arbitration authority to decisively settle the matter.

The Secretary-General emphasized that the Council's strong political determination to move the Ivorian peace process forward must be matched by the commensurate reinforcement of UNOCI to realize the goals set out in resolution 1633 (2005). He urged anew the Council to swiftly approve his recommendations of reinforcing UNOCI, including an increase in the troop levels by four battalions (3,400 troops) as well as the immediate deployment of three additional formed police units (375 officers) and 100 civilian police

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<sup>100</sup> S/2006/2, submitted pursuant to resolution 1603 (2005).

<sup>101</sup> S/2005/639 (see footnote 80 above).

officers. He recommended that the mandate of UNOCI be extended for a period of 12 months, until 24 January 2007, to adequately cover the post-election period in Côte d'Ivoire. Finally, reiterating the need for financial support for the effective implementation of the road map for the Ivorian peace process, especially the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the electoral process, he implored the Security Council and the General Assembly to consider authorizing the funding of the office of the High Representative for the elections from assessed contributions.

At its 5350th meeting, on 19 January 2006, the Council included the above-mentioned report in its agenda and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (United Republic of Tanzania) subsequently made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>102</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Strongly condemned the recent violent attacks against UNOCI and international non-governmental organization facilities in Côte d'Ivoire by street militias and other groups associated with the "Young Patriots", as well as their instigators;

Called upon all Ivorians to refrain from any hostile action, and demanded the immediate end of this violence and of all hatred messages in the media, in particular the attacks against the United Nations;

Welcomed the urgent mission to Abidjan led by President Obasanjo;

Underlined the fact that the occupation of the facilities of Ivorian Radio and Television constituted an attack against freedom and neutrality of information as well as a breach of the principles of the process of national reconciliation, of previous resolutions of the Security Council and of the peace agreements;

Reiterated its full support for the Prime Minister, Mr. Charles Konan Banny.

**Decision of 24 January 2006 (5354th meeting):  
resolution 1652 (2006)**

At its 5354th meeting, on 24 January 2006, the Council again included in its agenda the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>103</sup> and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (United Republic of Tanzania) drew the attention of the

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<sup>102</sup> S/PRST/2006/2.

<sup>103</sup> S/2006/2.

Council to a draft resolution,<sup>104</sup> as well as a letter dated 20 January 2006 from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the President of the Council.<sup>105</sup>

The draft resolution was subsequently put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1652 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it until 15 December 2006;

Decided to extend the provisions of paragraph 3 of resolution 1609 (2005) until 15 December 2006;

Expressed its intention to keep under review the tasks and the troop level of UNOCI.

**Decision of 6 February 2006 (5366th meeting):  
resolution 1657 (2006)**

At its 5366th meeting, on 6 February 2006, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 1 February 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council.<sup>106</sup> In that letter, the Secretary-General, taking into account further consideration by the Council of his recommendations on the reinforcement of UNOCI, indicated his intention to temporarily redeploy up to one mechanized infantry battalion and one formed police unit from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to UNOCI for an initial period of three months.

The President (United States) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by France;<sup>107</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1657 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to authorize the Secretary-General to redeploy immediately a maximum of one infantry company from UNMIL to UNOCI, until 31 March 2006, in order to provide extra security coverage for United Nations personnel and property, and to perform other tasks mandated to UNOCI, without prejudice to any future decision by the Council concerning the

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<sup>104</sup> S/2006/41.

<sup>105</sup> S/2006/43, by which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire brought to the attention of the Council a number of serious misunderstandings regarding the implementation of resolution 1633 (2005), which, if not properly addressed, could "seriously endanger the peace process".

<sup>106</sup> S/2006/71.

<sup>107</sup> S/2006/73.

renewal of the mandate and level of troops of UNMIL and a further extension of the redeployment mentioned above;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 23 February 2006 (5378th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the 5378th meeting, on 23 February 2006, the President (United States) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>108</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reiterated its full support for the International Working Group and endorsed its fourth final communiqué, of 17 February 2006;

Also endorsed the arbitration by the High Representative for the elections according to which the election of the Bureau of the Independent Electoral Commission was in compliance with the Pretoria Agreement;

Urged the Ivorian parties to ensure the effective functioning of the Independent Electoral Commission as soon as possible;

Underscored the imperative to guarantee the independence and neutrality of Ivorian Radio and Television;

Urged the Ivorian State authorities to facilitate, notably in the west, the return of humanitarian agencies and organizations.

**Decision of 29 March 2006 (5400th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5399th meeting, on 29 March 2006, the Council heard a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire. He noted that, despite the violence in Abidjan and in the west of the country in mid-January, the general situation in his country had been satisfactory since the formation of the new Government in December 2005. He recalled that to further move the peace process forward two meetings had recently been held in Yamoussoukro, namely a Government seminar aimed at defining the modalities for the implementation of the road map and a round-table summit among the four major Ivorian political leaders. At that summit, the leaders took a number of decisions. They noted that resolution 1633 (2005) and the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire were not incompatible and urged that the President and the Prime Minister find appropriate solutions to avoid potential conflicts relating to the execution of their respective authorities. They urged the Prime Minister to consult with the relevant parties to determine the powers and operating rules of the Independent

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<sup>108</sup> S/PRST/2006/9.

Electoral Commission so that the elections could be organized in a fair, transparent and credible manner. They agreed to meet frequently to ensure that political life in Côte d'Ivoire was conducted in a calm environment and with respect for the values of fraternity and democracy.

The Minister observed that immediately following the convening of the two meetings, progress had been made in the implementation of resolution 1633 (2005) and the road map. The Independent Electoral Commission had started its work after many months of uncertainty; the Secretary-General of the Forces nouvelles had returned to Abidjan after 17 months of absence; and the Government had put in place the electoral and identification processes, which would proceed simultaneously. In addition, it also became possible to partially begin redeploying the State administration in the areas of education in the regions under the control of the Forces nouvelles. Stressing the need to consolidate the ongoing climate of trust and make the progress irreversible, the Minister highlighted that the issue of security must be settled as a matter of top priority and that one of the most urgent tasks was to improve the conditions of soldiers in the national army. He also informed the Council that an inter-ministerial commission had been set up to coordinate humanitarian action on a national scale.

While reaffirming that the peace and reconciliation process had taken a positive turn, the Minister stressed that much remained to be done, including financing the electoral process at all stages; completing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process; strengthening security throughout the country, particularly in the west bordering Liberia; resolving humanitarian problems and supporting human rights; strengthening the capacities of judicial institutions; reducing the high unemployment rate among young people; and carrying out the return of refugees and displaced persons. In closing, while strongly hoping that a new High Representative for the elections would be appointed as soon as possible, the Minister noted that his Government supported the Secretary-General's proposal to strengthen UNOCI and would ask the Council to consider it positively.<sup>109</sup>

At the 5400th meeting, on 29 March 2006, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the President (Argentina) made a

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<sup>109</sup> S/PV.5399, pp. 2-5.

statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>110</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its full support for the International Working Group and endorsed its fifth final communiqué, of 17 March 2006;

Urged Ivorian leaders to fulfil all their commitments, in particular those made in Yamoussoukro on 28 February 2006, and to rapidly implement the road map, in good faith and in a spirit of trust, in order to organize free, fair, open and transparent elections by 31 October 2006;

Underlined the urgency of progress in the identification process, the establishment of the electoral registers and the commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

Called on donor countries to provide the Prime Minister with all the necessary support for the full and immediate implementation of the road map;

Reiterated its grave concern at the situation in the west;

Urged UNOCI to continue its redeployment in this region and called also for the return of this region to civilian authority;

Strongly condemned the persistence of violations of human rights, the attacks against members of the Government, the obstacles to the freedom of movement of impartial forces, and the incitements to hatred and violence in the media;

Requested the Ivorian authorities to guarantee, in close liaison with UNOCI, that all steps be taken to preserve the independence of Ivorian Radio and Television.

**Decision of 27 April 2006 (5428th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5426th meeting, on 27 April 2006, the Council heard a statement by the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, who reiterated that the general situation in his country remained relatively satisfactory, although events were not proceeding as quickly as he had wished. In that context, he recalled that the Government had taken several initiatives towards the reconciliation and restoration of confidence among the parties, notably the two meetings held in Yamoussoukro in February which had led to significant progress in the political, military and administrative areas. In the political area, the restoration of dialogue among the political leaders helped dispel distrust that separated them and removed obstacles to the implementation of the various agreements, resolution 1633 (2005) and the road map. In the military area, the former belligerents resumed the talks that had been

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<sup>110</sup> S/PRST/2006/14.

interrupted for more than a year. At the administrative level, State authorities were expected to be redeployed in the national education and higher education sectors in the regions controlled by the Forces nouvelles. Noting that the progress made thus far had to be made irreversible by enhancing the climate of confidence, the Prime Minister shared the concern expressed by the Secretary-General in his eighth report on UNOCI<sup>111</sup> over the consequences of any further delays in the implementation of the key deadlines set by resolution 1633 (2005) and the road map. Stating that a safe atmosphere of confidence could be ensured only by a military presence that was more significant and could also act as a deterrent, he underlined that the human, material and financial capabilities of UNOCI should be further strengthened. Finally, the Prime Minister noted that as the main concern of all Ivorians and of his Government, security throughout the country, not only in Abidjan, but also in the western region and in Bouaké, must be guaranteed. He therefore hoped that the number of additional blue helmets to reinforce UNOCI would be as close as possible to that requested by the Secretary-General.<sup>112</sup>

At the 5428th meeting,<sup>113</sup> on 27 April 2006, at which the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire was present, the President (China) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>114</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its full support for the International Working Group and endorsed its sixth final communiqué, of 20 April 2006;

Expressed its grave concern at the serious delay in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and of the identification operations; shared the concern expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 74 of his report dated 11 April 2006 over the consequences of any additional delays in the implementation of the key deadlines of the road map;

Invited therefore the Prime Minister and the Government of National Reconciliation he led to take immediately all the measures necessary to the simultaneous implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and identification operations;

Also invited the International Working Group, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 1633 (2005), to

<sup>111</sup> S/2006/222.

<sup>112</sup> S/PV.5426, pp. 2-5.

<sup>113</sup> At the 5427th meeting, held in private on 27 April 2006, members of the Council and the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire had an exchange of views.

<sup>114</sup> S/PRST/2006/20.

report to it any hindrance or difficulty which the Prime Minister might face in implementing his tasks.

**Decision of 24 May 2006 (5442nd meeting):  
statement by the President**

On 11 April 2006, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council the eighth report on UNOCI.<sup>115</sup> In that report, the Secretary-General observed that the recent initiatives taken by the Prime Minister had given fresh impetus to the Ivorian peace process. He welcomed the mechanisms for the implementation of the road map which had been set up during the Government seminar and the summit of the Ivorian leaders in February, but he cautioned that considerable challenges remained ahead. In that context, the Secretary-General underlined that the progress achieved so far could be sustained only if further concrete and dynamic action was taken to begin the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the dismantling of the militias, the redeployment of State authority and the preparations for the elections. He urged the Ivorian parties to agree without delay on the modalities for implementing the crucial identification process, adding that the United Nations was prepared to assist in that respect. Fearing that as long as the militias and the Young Patriots remained mobilized, the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire would continue to be fragile and potentially volatile, he stressed that the disarmament process, including disarmament of the militias, must start immediately.

To complete the extremely complex peace process, the Secretary-General noted, would require the mobilization of significant resources and the full adherence of the Ivorian parties to the principles and objectives laid down in the peace agreements and Council resolutions. He emphasized that the window of opportunity for full implementation of the road map was very narrow and cautioned that any further delays or disruptions in the peace process would hinder the timely organization of the elections by 31 October 2006. The Secretary-General reaffirmed his appeal to the Council to give positive consideration to his recommendations on reinforcement of UNOCI as contained in his seventh report on UNOCI<sup>116</sup> and reiterated in his letter dated 22 March 2006 to the

<sup>115</sup> S/2006/222, submitted pursuant to resolution 1603 (2005).

<sup>116</sup> S/2006/2.

President of the Council.<sup>117</sup> He held that the disturbances in the country in January 2006 had attested to the need to reinforce UNOCI operational capabilities so that it could not only perform its original mandate more effectively, but also take up the new challenging tasks ascribed to it by the road map. The Secretary-General urged the Ivorian parties to take concrete measures to guarantee the freedom of movement and operations of all international personnel in Côte d'Ivoire and hoped that those committing attacks against the United Nations would be held personally accountable for their actions. He was also deeply concerned at the possible spillover of insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire into the subregion, particularly to Liberia.

At its 5442nd meeting, on 24 May 2006, the Council included in its agenda the above-mentioned eighth report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>118</sup> and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Congo) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>119</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its full support for the International Working Group and endorsed its seventh final communiqué, of 19 May 2006;

Called upon the community of donors to provide the necessary financial resources to the High Representative for the elections;

Reiterated its grave concern at the serious delay in the implementation of the road map;

Strongly condemned acts of violence against civilians and political leaders; demanded that all parties refrain from inciting violence and called on the authorities to identify and punish those responsible for the violence;

Urged all parties to cooperate closely with the Prime Minister to create the conditions for the holding of free, open and fair elections by 31 October 2006;

Underlined that targeted measures were to be imposed against persons blocking the implementation of the peace process.

**Decision of 2 June 2006 (5451st meeting):  
resolution 1682 (2006)**

At its 5451st meeting, on 2 June 2006, the Council extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The

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<sup>117</sup> S/2006/184.

<sup>118</sup> S/2006/222.

<sup>119</sup> S/PRST/2006/23.

President (Denmark) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution,<sup>120</sup> as well as a letter dated 25 May 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council<sup>121</sup> and a letter dated 22 May 2006 from the President of the Council to the Secretary-General.<sup>122</sup>

The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1682 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Authorized until 15 December 2006 an increase in the strength of UNOCI of up to 1,500 additional personnel, including a maximum of 1,025 military personnel and 475 civilian police personnel;

Expressed its intention to keep under review the appropriate personnel level of UNOCI, in the light of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and in the subregion;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 19 July 2006 (5491st meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5491st meeting, on 19 July 2006, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 12 July 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council<sup>123</sup> and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (France) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>124</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Urged all Ivorian parties to implement, in close liaison with the impartial forces, all their commitments made at the meeting held in Yamoussoukro on 5 July 2006 and to accelerate the implementation of the road map in order to create the conditions indispensable for the holding of free, open, fair and transparent elections by 31 October;

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<sup>120</sup> S/2006/357.

<sup>121</sup> S/2006/334, in which the Secretary-General appealed to the Council to expedite its decision on his recommendations for the strengthening of UNOCI so that the mission could effectively fulfil its mandate in support of the delicate processes of identification and disarmament in Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>122</sup> S/2006/345, in which the members of the Council requested the Secretary-General to begin, without delay, planning for the possible deployment of additional troops to reinforce UNOCI.

<sup>123</sup> S/2006/516, transmitting a communiqué issued at the high-level meeting on Côte d'Ivoire convened by the Secretary-General in Yamoussoukro on 5 July 2006.

<sup>124</sup> S/PRST/2006/32.

Called on the International Working Group to monitor the full implementation of the decisions taken by all Ivorian parties in Yamoussoukro and to report to it on its assessment in that regard;

Underlined that it was fully prepared to impose targeted measures against persons who were determined to be blocking the implementation of the peace process;

Requested the Secretary-General to report to it before the September meeting on the obstacles remaining to the implementation of the road map and on those responsible;

Expressed its full support for the International Working Group and endorsed its eighth final communiqué, of 23 June 2006;

Reiterated its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the High Representative for the elections.

**Decision of 7 August 2006 (5505th meeting): statement by the President**

At the 5505th meeting, on 7 August 2006, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the President (Ghana) again drew the attention of the Council members to a letter dated 12 July 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council,<sup>125</sup> and to a second letter dated 26 July 2006.<sup>126</sup> He then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>127</sup> by which the Council, inter alia:

Expressed its utmost concern and condemned the acts of violence committed by organized groups, in particular the Young Patriots, which had led to the deaths of civilians, and further condemned the attack of 24 July against the High Representative for the elections;

Condemned also the incidents of 15 July at the premises of Ivorian Radio and Television;

Called on the Ivorian authorities to strengthen security measures at Ivorian Radio and Television;

Demanded that the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire, including the Republican Guard, act within the law of the land at all times to ensure full security of the population;

Considered that it was necessary to deploy throughout the territory of Côte d'Ivoire as many mobile courts as possible.

<sup>125</sup> S/2006/516.

<sup>126</sup> S/2006/584, transmitting the communiqué issued by the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire following its ninth meeting, held in Abidjan on 20 July 2006.

<sup>127</sup> S/PRST/2006/37.

**Decision of 14 September 2006 (5524th meeting): resolution 1708 (2006)**

At its 5524th meeting, on 14 September 2006, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 13 September 2006 from the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) to the President of the Council, transmitting the final report of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>128</sup> In that report, the Group noted that while no evidence of gross violations of Security Council measures had been found, the Committee needed to urgently address a number of incidents that were believed to constitute violations. It held that the inspection process by UNOCI must be reviewed, cautioning that the monitoring system could be easily circumnavigated if there was a serious deterioration of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. While the targeting of three Ivorian individuals in February 2006 appeared at the time to have had a calming effect, the Group was concerned that the targeting of additional individuals by the Committee without effective monitoring and compliance systems in place by States neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire could be counterproductive.

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (Greece) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>129</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1708 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts to 15 December 2006 and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures;

Requested the Group of Experts to submit a brief written update to the Council, before 1 December 2006, on the implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1643 (2005) with recommendations in this regard; decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 1 November 2006 (5561st meeting): resolution 1721 (2006)**

On 17 October 2006, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council the tenth progress report on UNOCI.<sup>130</sup> In that report, the Secretary-General noted

<sup>128</sup> S/2006/735.

<sup>129</sup> S/2006/736.

<sup>130</sup> S/2006/821, submitted pursuant to resolution 1603 (2005).

that, in spite of some initial progress, implementation of the decisions taken at the Yamoussoukro high-level meeting he had convened on 5 July 2006<sup>131</sup> had encountered deliberate obstruction by some political leaders, resulting in a new stalemate. The impasse emanated mainly from major disagreements among the Ivorian parties on fundamental issues concerning the procedures for issuing certificates of nationality and the related preparation of the voters' list. Consequently, the second transition period, like the previous one, was coming to a close without elections. In that context, the Secretary-General stressed that the African Union and the Security Council must capitalize and build upon the proposals made by the ECOWAS leaders concerning the way forward after the current transition period expired on 31 October 2006, and put in place the requisite measures to accelerate the peace process and guarantee the success of the anticipated new transition arrangements. He strongly believed that the duration of the new transition should be determined strictly on the basis of the time required to complete the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, to conduct effective identification, to dismantle the militias, to re-establish State authority throughout the country and to finalize the preparations for the elections. He considered it important to make clear to the Ivorian leaders that the envisaged further extension of the transition period should be the last. Should they fail to move towards the elections again, ECOWAS, the African Union and the Security Council should consider putting in place transitional governance arrangements comprising eminent, non-partisan personalities from civil society to complete the remaining transition processes and conduct the long-overdue elections.

To eliminate the existing loopholes and avoid previously encountered obstacles, the Secretary-General held that the Council ought to consider setting a number of ground rules and safeguards for the third transition period, as follows: (a) international instruments that set out the special arrangements for the transition period, such as Council resolutions and the various peace agreements, should take precedence where there might be a divergence with the Ivorian Constitution and national laws; (b) the Prime Minister should have the necessary authority over all relevant public offices and the Defence and Security Forces on all issues pertaining to the implementation of the road

map; (c) all commanders of the Defence and Security Forces and political leaders should be held personally responsible for activities that disrupted the implementation of the road map and be subject to the imposition of individual sanctions by the Council, with the more serious cases referred to the International Criminal Court; (d) all parties should allow the Ivorian population and the impartial forces complete freedom of movement throughout the country; (e) the Prime Minister should have full and unfettered authority to implement the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the identification process, the dismantling of the militias and the earliest re-establishment of State authority throughout the country, as well as to commit the necessary funds to ensure the implementation of those key processes; and (f) articles 35 and 48 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire should not be invoked during the transition period in respect of those key processes.

With regard to the transition institutions, the Secretary-General stressed the importance of establishing, under the Prime Minister's authority, two task forces on the restructuring of the Defence and Security Forces and on the identification process. He recommended that the United Nations play an enhanced role in the Ivorian peace process and urged the Council to review the mandate of UNOCI and augment its resources. Concerning the electoral process, the Secretary-General underlined the need to ensure that the High Representative for the elections had the authority to make binding determinations on all issues pertaining to the electoral process and that his Office was sufficiently funded, including by assessed contributions. He highlighted that each stage of the Ivorian electoral process should be certified by the High Representative. Finally, noting that ECOWAS and the African Union could play an equally critical role in supporting the new transition process, the Secretary-General urged the two regional bodies to forge unity among the regional actors and mediators to ensure that all mediation efforts were harmonized and properly coordinated. He hoped that the planned summit of the African Union Peace and Security Council, having reviewed the concrete recommendations by the ECOWAS leaders, would come up with clear decisions on the way forward in Côte d'Ivoire in order to meet the various imperatives for an effective and expeditious implementation of the peace process.

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<sup>131</sup> See S/2006/516.

At its 5561st meeting,<sup>132</sup> on 1 November 2006, the Council included in its agenda the above-mentioned report and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion.<sup>133</sup> The President (Peru) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution,<sup>134</sup> as well as a letter dated 18 October 2006 from the representative of the Congo to the President of the Council.<sup>135</sup>

The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1721 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Endorsed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council that President Laurent Gbagbo should remain Head of State as from 1 November 2006 for a new and final transition period not exceeding 12 months;

Endorsed the decision of the Peace and Security Council to renew the mandate of the Prime Minister, Mr. Charles Konan Banny, as from 1 November 2006 for a new and final transition period not exceeding 12 months, and endorsed also the decision of the Peace and Security Council that the Prime Minister should not be eligible to stand for the presidential elections to be organized by 31 October 2007;

Demanded the immediate resumption of the programme for the disarmament and dismantling of militias throughout the national territory, stressed that the programme was a key element of the peace process, and underlined the individual responsibility of the leaders of the militias in the full implementation of this process; demanded that all the Ivorian parties concerned, in particular the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles and the armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire, participate fully and in good faith in the work of the quadripartite commission responsible for overseeing the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the operations for the disarmament and dismantling of militias;

Demanded that all Ivorian parties end all incitement to hatred and violence, in radio and television broadcasting as well as in any other media, and urged the Prime Minister to establish

and implement without delay a code of conduct for the media, in conformity with the decisions taken in Yamoussoukro on 5 July 2006 and the decision of the Peace and Security Council;

Demanded that all Ivorian parties cooperate fully with the operations of UNOCI and the French forces which supported it.

**Decision of 15 December 2006 (5591st meeting):  
resolution 1726 (2006)**

On 4 December 2006, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council the eleventh progress report on UNOCI.<sup>136</sup> In that report, the Secretary-General noted that while it was welcomed in the subregion as a major step forward, resolution 1721 (2006) had received mixed reactions from the Ivorian parties. On the one hand, President Gbagbo had expressed the view that all the peace plans devised by the international community to date had failed and that the Ivorian people should therefore find their own solution to the crisis. Those remarks were generally considered as an attempt to walk away from resolution 1721 (2006). On the other hand, the Forces nouvelles and the opposition parties had welcomed the resolution, with the former saying that it had addressed their major concerns and the latter calling for a boycott of the consultations initiated by President Gbagbo aimed to find an alternative framework for addressing the crisis. For his part, the Prime Minister was determined to implement the resolution, stressing that there was no need for another framework to resolve the Ivorian crisis.

The Secretary-General maintained that resolution 1721 (2006) provided a sound framework, as well as the necessary tools and safeguards, for bringing the Ivorian peace process to a successful conclusion in the coming 12 months. He appealed to the four main Ivorian leaders to seize the opportunity offered by the final extension of the transition period, work together with the Prime Minister to build on the initial positive steps in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, identification and the restoration of State authority, and make the hard compromises needed to take their country out of crisis. Mindful of the fact that the current transition period was expected to be completed by 31 October 2007, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council authorize the renewal of the mandate of UNOCI for an additional year, until 15 December 2007. While calling on the Council to approve his recommendations relating to the United Nations contribution in support of the key

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<sup>132</sup> At the 5555th meeting, held in private on 25 October 2006, the members of the Council heard a briefing by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union as well as a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>133</sup> Côte d'Ivoire was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>134</sup> S/2006/854.

<sup>135</sup> S/2006/829, transmitting the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 64th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 17 October 2006 at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

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<sup>136</sup> S/2006/939, submitted pursuant to resolution 1603 (2005).

implementation processes, he also sought the support of the Council for an expanded presence of the civil affairs, political affairs, human rights and the rule of law components of UNOCI in the northern and western parts of the country to support the restoration of State administration in those areas. Finally, in view of the need to adjust the overall posture of the UNOCI military component and to enhance its role in maintaining overall security in the country, facilitating freedom of movement and protecting civilians, the Secretary-General urged the Council to approve the deployment of the remaining three battalions to UNOCI as recommended in his seventh report.<sup>137</sup> He noted in that regard that the Council could take advantage of the adjustment in the strength of UNMIL, in particular the envisaged departure of one battalion from that mission at the end of 2006, to reinforce UNOCI.

At its 5591st meeting, on 15 December 2006, the Council included in its agenda the eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Qatar) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>138</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1726 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it until 10 January 2007;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 15 December 2006 (5592nd meeting): resolution 1727 (2006)**

At its 5592nd meeting, on 15 December 2006, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 8 December 2006 from the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) to the President of the Council, transmitting the update report of the Group of Experts.<sup>139</sup> In that report, the Group documented violations of sanctions with regard to importation of arms, provision of military assistance, advice and training, embargo inspections, illicit diamond production and exports, and targeted measures on three Ivorians.

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<sup>137</sup> S/2006/2.

<sup>138</sup> S/2006/981.

<sup>139</sup> S/2006/964.

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (Qatar) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>140</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1727 (2006), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to renew until 31 October 2007 the provisions of paragraphs 7 to 12 of resolution 1572 (2004);

Reiterated that any attack or serious obstacle to the freedom of movement of UNOCI, the French forces, the High Representative for the elections and of the International Working Group constituted a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process, and requested the Secretary-General and the Government of France to report to it immediately any serious obstacle or attack; requested all States concerned to report to the Committee, within 90 days, on the actions they had taken to implement resolution 1572 (2004) and paragraph 6 of resolution 1643 (2005);

Decided to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts for a further period of six months, and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures and appoint new members as necessary, in consultation with the Committee.

**Decision of 21 December 2006 (5606th meeting): statement by the President**

At its 5606th meeting, on 21 December 2006, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 7 December 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council.<sup>141</sup> The President (Qatar) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>142</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reiterated its full support for the International Working Group and shared its grave concern at delays in the implementation of resolution 1721 (2006);

Urged all Ivorian parties to cooperate fully with the Prime Minister in order to implement all the provisions of the road map; reiterated its full support for the Prime Minister, including his efforts to fight impunity and promote good governance, and to utilize all his powers to prepare for elections, which must be held by 31 October 2007 at the latest;

Invited the African Union mediator to visit Côte d'Ivoire to relaunch the peace process as soon as possible;

Requested the International Working Group to provide a detailed update on the timeline for the implementation of the

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<sup>140</sup> S/2006/982.

<sup>141</sup> S/2006/950, transmitting the communiqué issued by the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire following its 11th meeting, held in Abidjan on 1 December 2006.

<sup>142</sup> S/PRST/2006/58.

peace process and all the recommendations needed for the consideration of the situation by ECOWAS and the African Union by 1 February 2007 at the latest;

Reiterated its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the High Representative for the elections, and UNOCI as well as the French forces which supported it.

**Decision of 10 January 2007 (5617th meeting):  
resolution 1739 (2007)**

At its 5617th meeting, on 10 January 2007, the Council again included in its agenda the eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>143</sup> and extended an invitation to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Russian Federation) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by France;<sup>144</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1739 (2007), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided that the mandates of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it should be extended until 30 June 2007;

Decided to extend the provisions of paragraph 3 of resolution 1609 (2005) and of paragraph 2 of resolution 1682 (2006);

Authorized UNOCI to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate;

Requested UNOCI to carry out its mandate in close cooperation with UNMIL;

Authorized the French forces to use all necessary means in order to support UNOCI;

Called upon all parties to cooperate fully with the deployment and operations of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it;

Decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 28 March 2007 (5651st meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the 5651st meeting, on 28 March 2007, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the President (South Africa) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 13 March 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the

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<sup>143</sup> S/2006/939.

<sup>144</sup> S/2007/8.

Council.<sup>145</sup> He then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>146</sup> by which the Council, inter alia:

Endorsed the Ouagadougou Political Agreement of 4 March 2007 (S/2007/144) and called upon the Ivorian parties to implement it fully, in good faith and within the timetable set out in the Agreement;

Took note of the agreement among the parties on the institutional arrangements and supported the appointment of Mr. Guillaume Soro as Prime Minister; expressed its readiness to take further steps, in the light of the progress achieved, in order to help the parties in implementing their commitments and to support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular the electoral process;

Requested the Secretary-General to submit to it recommendations by 15 May 2007 on the role that the United Nations should play to support the implementation of the peace process, taking into account the latest developments in Côte d'Ivoire.

**Deliberations of 18 May 2007 (5676th meeting)**

On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council the thirteenth progress report on UNOCI.<sup>147</sup> In that report, the Secretary-General noted that the Ivorian parties had met several key deadlines for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, including the establishment of the integrated command centre, the formation of a new Government led by Guillaume Soro as Prime Minister, the proclamation of an ordinance granting amnesty for certain crimes relating to national security and the start of the process of lifting the Zone of Confidence and establishing the green line. At the same time, mainly due to the limited capacity of national institutions, the parties were unable to meet the deadline for beginning the implementation of the more complex cluster of tasks consisting of the dismantling of the militias, the cantonment of combatants, the redeployment of State officials throughout the country and the launching of the mobile court hearings for the identification of the population.

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<sup>145</sup> S/2007/144, transmitting the Ouagadougou Political Agreement signed on 4 March 2007 by Laurent Gbagbo, President of Côte d'Ivoire, Guillaume Soro, Secretary-General of the Forces nouvelles, and Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and Chairman of ECOWAS, in his capacity as Facilitator.

<sup>146</sup> S/PRST/2007/8.

<sup>147</sup> S/2007/275, submitted pursuant to the statement by the President of 28 March 2007 (S/PRST/2007/8).

Noting that the Ouagadougou Political Agreement seemed to have created a widespread impression that the signatories were seeking a limited role for the United Nations in the peace process, the Secretary-General reported the findings of a United Nations technical assessment mission that had recently visited Côte d'Ivoire to clarify the future role of the United Nations. The mission concluded that all national and international stakeholders had stressed the need for continued United Nations assistance for the Ivorian peace process and that no Ivorian leaders had called for the withdrawal of UNOCI. However, the Ivorian parties had divergent views regarding the role of the United Nations in the electoral process, particularly with regard to the certification and arbitration roles of the High Representative for the elections. While the Prime Minister and the opposition parties held that the role of the United Nations in the electoral process should remain unchanged since the issue was not addressed by the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, President Gbagbo maintained his objection to the arbitration role and other functions of the High Representative for the elections as defined in resolution 1721 (2006), only accepting the United Nations responsibility for international certification of the electoral process.

The Secretary-General recommended that the United Nations should adjust its role in Côte d'Ivoire to effectively support the new phase of the peace process. He held that the drawdown of the military component of UNOCI should not begin at the current stage but that the priority should be to deploy the UNOCI troops to each of the 17 cantonment sites to supervise and support the disarmament and demobilization process and the storage of weapons. Once the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the restoration of State administration throughout the country were completed, UNOCI would conduct a review of its troop levels and determine the military resources required to support the remaining tasks. He held that the completion of the presidential election and the installation of the elected Government would be the next key benchmarks that should trigger the beginning of the withdrawal of UNOCI. As such, it was recommended that the mandate of the mission be extended for a further period of six months, until December 2007. With regard to the police component of UNOCI, the Secretary-General noted that the United Nations police would deploy to two new locations in the north while one formed police

unit would be redeployed from Abidjan to Boundiali, in the north-west, to provide security for the increased number of United Nations police as well as other UNOCI personnel and equipment to be deployed to the north. In addition, UNOCI would deploy more personnel of its civilian component in the north and west to support the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the restoration of State administration in those areas. On the role of the High Representative for the elections, the Secretary-General urged the Council to consider entrusting the certification role to his Special Representative who should be assisted in that regard by a small unit, separate from the UNOCI electoral component and consisting of up to three staff.

In closing, the Secretary-General observed that, while the advent of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement had taken the Ivorian peace process to a unique turning point, the political will alone would not sustain the peace process. The Ivorian authorities would need the assistance of the United Nations and other international partners to develop the capacity of the main national institutions involved in the implementation of the Agreement, especially the newly formed integrated command centre. In that regard, the Secretary-General underlined that the international partners should provide the necessary support and advice to ensure that the peace process was conducted in accordance with internationally accepted standards. This would require regular consultations with the parties, he stated, urging the parties and the Facilitator to involve the international partners in the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the agreement.

At its 5676th meeting, on 18 May 2007, in which the representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate, the Council included the above-mentioned report in its agenda and heard a statement by the Minister of National Security of Burkina Faso. Speaking on behalf of President Blaise Compaoré, the Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian dialogue, the Minister welcomed the Council's endorsement of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement through its presidential statement of 28 March 2007.<sup>148</sup> He asserted that the Agreement marked a real turning point in the process of emerging from the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. To further promote the peace process, he informed the Council that the Facilitator had agreed

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<sup>148</sup> S/PRST/2007/8.

with the parties to appoint a special representative in Abidjan and had also been considering the establishment of two advisory bodies to support the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee. One would be national in nature with the aim to provide information and hear the views and suggestions of other components of Ivorian society. The other would be of an international nature, with a view to enabling all partners involved in the process of ending the crisis to carry out follow-up and support for the follow-up. The Minister stated that the Facilitator hoped that the Council would support the establishment of the two planned bodies. He recalled that the Facilitator had urged the United Nations to continue to provide technical and financial support to the Ivorian peace process until the end of the crisis. He noted that the Facilitator was in support of the certification role by the United Nations in the electoral process to be played under the responsibility of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire. Finally, he cautioned that while the Ivorian peace process was currently well under way, it could prove vulnerable. As such, the Facilitator should continue to be supported by the international community so that he could assist the Ivorian people until the holding of free, democratic, open and transparent presidential elections.<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>149</sup> S/PV.5676, pp. 2-4.

**Decision of 20 June 2007 (5700th meeting):  
resolution 1761 (2007)**

At its 5700th meeting, on 20 June 2007, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 11 June 2007 from the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) to the President of the Council, transmitting the report of the Group of Experts.<sup>150</sup> In that report, it was noted that no gross violations of the sanctions had been found, but that the inspections carried out by the experts and the impartial forces had been hindered by the reticence of certain Ivorian stakeholders, particularly the Government's Defence and Security Forces, who had questioned the need to verify the implementation of the embargo in the light of the new framework for peace and reconciliation between the two warring parties. Meanwhile, the experts had confirmed the lack of transparency surrounding the management of the most lucrative industries, such as petroleum and cocoa, but obtained no specific information on possible violations of the embargo imposed on diamond exports.

The President (Belgium) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution,<sup>151</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1761 (2007), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts, as set out in resolution 1727 (2006), until 31 October 2007, and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures.

**Decision of 29 June 2007 (5711th meeting):  
resolution 1763 (2007)**

At its 5711th meeting, on 29 June 2007, the Council again included in its agenda the thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>152</sup> and extended invitations to the representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Belgium) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>153</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1763 (2007), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

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<sup>150</sup> S/2007/349; the report was submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 (e) of resolution 1727 (2006).

<sup>151</sup> S/2007/370.

<sup>152</sup> S/2007/275.

<sup>153</sup> S/2007/389.

inter alia, decided that the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it should be extended until 16 July 2007.

**Decision of 29 June 2007 (5712th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5712th meeting, on 29 June 2007, the Council extended invitations to the representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (Belgium) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>154</sup> by which the Council, inter alia:

Condemned the attack committed on 29 June 2007 in Bouaké against the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire;

Stressed that the perpetrators of this criminal act must be brought to justice;

Recalled its support for the political agreement signed by President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Soro in Ouagadougou on 4 March 2007;

Stressed that it was critical that all parties continued to work within the framework of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, which was the way to settle the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

**Decision of 16 July 2007 (5716th meeting):  
resolution 1765 (2007)**

At its 5716th meeting, on 16 July 2007, the Council again included in its agenda the thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>155</sup> and extended invitations to the representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to participate in the discussion. The President (China) then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>156</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1765 (2007), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, inter alia:

Decided that the mandate of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it should be extended until 15 January 2008;

Endorsed the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General dated 14 May 2007 and requested UNOCI, within its existing resources, to support the full implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement; called upon all concerned parties to ensure that the protection of women and

children was addressed in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement;

Decided to terminate the mandate of the High Representative for the elections;

Decided therefore that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire should certify that all stages of the electoral process provided all the necessary guarantees for the holding of open, free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections in accordance with international standards, and requested the Secretary-General to take all the necessary steps so that the Special Representative had at his disposal a support cell providing him all the appropriate assistance to fulfil this task;

Supported the establishment of an international consultative organ to accompany the Ivorian political forces and the Facilitator in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement.

**Deliberations of 22 October 2007  
(5765th meeting)**

On 1 October 2007, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council the fourteenth progress report on UNOCI.<sup>157</sup> In that report, he noted that the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire had remained generally calm since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement on 4 March 2007. While the situation in the volatile west of the country continued to improve, that in the north became increasingly insecure owing to the continued absence of the national law enforcement agencies and a functioning justice system. The Secretary-General expressed deep concern at the 29 June 2007 attack on the Prime Minister, which created tensions and undermined the positive atmosphere engendered by the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. However, the Secretary-General observed that the overall political atmosphere in Côte d'Ivoire had remained positive, making it possible for the Ivorian parties to achieve some concrete progress on the ground.

The Secretary-General noted that the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement started losing momentum in June, mainly because of the limited capacity of national institutions in charge. As a result, no progress had been made in unifying the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles, and the implementation of various key tasks had been

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<sup>154</sup> S/PRST/2007/25.

<sup>155</sup> S/2007/275.

<sup>156</sup> S/2007/430.

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<sup>157</sup> S/2007/593, submitted pursuant to resolution 1765 (2007).

significantly delayed, particularly with regard to the dismantling of the militias, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the restoration of State administration throughout the country, the identification of the population and the registration of voters. Deeply worried about the consequences of a slackening of momentum in the peace process, the Secretary-General urged the Prime Minister and President Gbagbo to take the necessary measures to move forward with the implementation of the Agreement. The Secretary-General expressed concern at the continuing human rights violations in the country, which were characterized by abuses inflicted on civilians by the Defence and Security Forces and Forces nouvelles elements. He stressed that the leadership of the two forces had an obligation to address those problems and to ensure discipline among their personnel. He urged the Government to dismantle the militias in the west and in Abidjan without further delay, and to enforce the law against the leaders and members of the so-called student groups that intimidated and carried out acts of violence against civilians, civil society organizations and United Nations personnel and property. Finally, noting that the two benchmarks identified in his thirteenth report on UNOCI,<sup>158</sup> namely the completion of the disarmament and demobilization process and the restoration of State administration throughout the country, had yet to be met, the Secretary-General recommended that the troop levels of UNOCI be maintained at current levels, with a view to conducting a further review in that regard in his next report on UNOCI.

At its 5765th meeting, on 22 October 2007, the Council included in its agenda the fourteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI<sup>157</sup> and heard briefings by the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNOCI and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, following which all Council members and the representative of Côte d'Ivoire made statements.<sup>159</sup>

The Principal Deputy Special Representative affirmed that the overall security situation in Côte d'Ivoire remained generally stable and that the continued commitment of the Ivorian leaders to take ownership of the peace process had yielded some progress in the implementation of the key tasks

provided for in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. For its part, UNOCI continued to provide logistical, technical and security support to the Ivorian parties in implementing the key aspects of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. The mission was finalizing the establishment of a certification cell within the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and practical modalities for the certification of the electoral process were expected to be defined soon. The Principal Deputy Special Representative held that restructuring the Ivorian armed forces remained a crucial task. To help address the problem, the Facilitator intended to submit, in the near future, concrete proposals to President Gbagbo and the Prime Minister related to the issue of ranks and quotas for Forces nouvelles elements that would be part of the unified army. He observed that the very positive partnership between the United Nations and the Facilitator, as well as the recent appointment in Abidjan of the Facilitator's Special Representative, constituted encouraging prospects for accelerating the process of implementing the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. He added that efforts were under way to develop synergy between the Facilitator's arbitration and the validation of UNOCI and certification functions to define criteria for ensuring the effective performance of those functions.<sup>160</sup>

Speaking on behalf of President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, the Facilitator of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso observed that the Agreement had led to a fundamental change in the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire where military and political tensions had given way to a genuine dialogue. The Minister noted that despite the multiple difficulties in implementing the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, the Facilitator continued to have faith in the Ivorian parties and their ability to overcome their differences to consolidate peace and national reconciliation. In that respect, he stated that the signatories had agreed to establish an institutional framework to implement the Ouagadougou Political Agreement according to the agreed timeline covering the period from March to December 2008.<sup>161</sup>

In the subsequent discussion, the Council members commended President Compaoré for his tireless efforts at facilitating the implementation of the

<sup>158</sup> S/2007/275.

<sup>159</sup> France was represented by the Secretary of State for Cooperation and la Francophonie.

<sup>160</sup> S/PV.5765, pp. 2-4.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

Ouagadougou Political Agreement. They reiterated their full support for the Agreement, which constituted a real chance for Côte d'Ivoire to emerge from the crisis. Stressing that the United Nations continued to have an important role to play in the Ivorian peace process, they hoped that the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire would give a new impetus to the peace process.

Many members voiced concern at the delays in meeting key deadlines provided for in the Agreement, particularly with regard to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the disarmament and dismantling of militias, the identification of the population, the registration of voters and the restoration of State administration throughout the country.<sup>162</sup> Several were worried about the resultant significant slackening in the momentum to implement the Agreement.<sup>163</sup> However, the representative of South Africa remained optimistic about the peace process, noting that all Ivorian parties had demonstrated the political will to abide by the agreed-upon time frames. He was supportive of the remarks of the Prime Minister that preserving the credibility of the electoral process was more important than adhering to strict deadlines.<sup>164</sup> On the way forward, some underlined the urgent need to resolve the question of ranks and numbers of the Forces nouvelles expected to join the unified national army,<sup>165</sup> while others attached great importance to the holding of free, fair and open elections, including by ensuring a credible and inclusive identification and registration process through mobile court hearings.<sup>166</sup> In the light of the daunting challenges ahead, many supported the Secretary-General's recommendations on preserving the current mandate and troop levels of UNOCI.<sup>167</sup>

<sup>162</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France); p. 10 (United Kingdom); p. 12 (Belgium, Indonesia); p. 13 (Congo); p. 15 (Qatar); and p. 18 (Ghana).

<sup>163</sup> Ibid., p. 8 (South Africa); p. 9 (Peru); p. 10 (Slovakia); and p. 11 (Russian Federation).

<sup>164</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France); p. 15 (United States); p. 16 (Panama); and p. 18 (Ghana).

<sup>166</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France); p. 10 (United Kingdom, Slovakia); and p. 15 (United States).

<sup>167</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France); p. 9 (Peru); p. 11 (Slovakia, Russian Federation); p. 13 (Indonesia); p. 14 (Congo); and p. 18 (Ghana).

Many members drew particular attention to the disturbing human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire, including reports of human trafficking.<sup>168</sup> The representative of Panama observed that the intervention of the International Criminal Court could be an important way to fight impunity in Côte d'Ivoire and he regretted the fact that the Government had "shown resistance" to a possible mission of the Court.<sup>169</sup> However, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire held that allegations of human rights violations in his country in the Secretary-General's report were not based on facts that could be verified by all. He solemnly requested UNOCI staff to be stricter when drafting the Secretary-General's reports, "as these reports involve the reputation of a State and of an entire people who are ready to correct their weaknesses".<sup>170</sup>

As to sanctions, the representative of Slovakia said he hoped that the available measures would be fully implemented to promote stability in Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>171</sup> Similarly, the representative of Qatar noted that the arms embargo and targeted sanctions imposed by the Council should be adhered to.<sup>172</sup> For his part, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire recalled that the Ouagadougou Political Agreement had explicitly requested the Council to immediately lift the individual sanctions imposed on actors in the Ivorian crisis and that the two signatories had requested an immediate special authorization to import the light weapons necessary to maintain public order and security. However, he noted that almost eight months after the Agreement was signed, none of the measures expected of the United Nations in support of its implementation had been taken. On the contrary, an outdated draft resolution for the extension of sanctions for another year was being circulated despite the dramatic changes on the ground since the sanctions regime had been adopted in 2005.<sup>173</sup>

The representatives of China and Panama urged the international community, the United Nations and regional organizations to continue to support the

<sup>168</sup> Ibid., p. 9 (Peru); p. 10 (United Kingdom); p. 11 (Slovakia); p. 12 (Belgium); p. 13 (Indonesia); p. 15 (United States); p. 16 (Qatar); and pp. 16-17 (Panama).

<sup>169</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>170</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>171</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>172</sup> Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>173</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

Ivorian peace process.<sup>174</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire called for an "innovative interpretation of Chapter VIII of the Charter" so that the three African members on the Council could be allowed to initiate draft resolutions on Côte d'Ivoire. Asking why France was "so intent on hounding Côte d'Ivoire and some of its political actors", the representative, citing remarks made by the Chairperson of the African Union at a Council meeting on 25 September 2007, stressed that the international partners "must let Africans run their own business" and that while financing is important, it does not justify unbridled intervention or conduct.<sup>175</sup>

**Decision of 29 October 2007 (5772nd meeting):  
resolution 1782 (2007)**

At its 5772nd meeting, on 29 October 2007, the Council included in its agenda a letter dated 17 October 2007 from the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) to the President of the Council,<sup>176</sup> transmitting the report of the Group of Experts. In that report, the Group noted that it had observed a lack of understanding on the part of certain Ivorian political authorities as to the Group's mission in the light of the ongoing reconciliation process. The Group also noted the discrepancy between the weapons lists provided by the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles and their real capacities. The Group confirmed the lack of transparency in the management of revenue in the coffee and cocoa and hydrocarbon sectors. The Group continued its investigation into possible violations of the embargos on diamond exports, uncovering evidence of persistent activity in the Tortiya and Séguéla mining areas and confirmation of the use of Malian smuggling rings to move Ivorian diamonds out of the country.

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire was invited to participate in the discussion. The President (Ghana) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by France;<sup>177</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted, unanimously and without debate, as resolution 1782 (2007), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, *inter alia*:

Decided to renew until 31 October 2008 the provisions of paragraphs 7 to 12 of resolution 1572 (2004) and of paragraph 6 of resolution 1643 (2005);

Also decided to review the measures imposed by resolution 1572 (2004) in particular its paragraphs 7, 9 and 11 and by paragraph 6 of resolution 1643 (2005);

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<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14 (China); and p. 16 (Panama).

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 19-20. See also S/PV.5749, p. 17.

<sup>176</sup> S/2007/611; the report was submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 1761 (2007).

<sup>177</sup> S/2007/633.

Demanded in particular that the Ivorian authorities put an immediate end to any violation of measures imposed by paragraph 11 of resolution 1572 (2004) including those violations mentioned by the Group of Experts in its report dated 21 September 2007;

Decided that any serious obstacle to the freedom of movement of UNOCI and of the French forces which supported it, or any attack or obstruction of the action of UNOCI, of the French forces, of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, of the Facilitator mentioned in paragraph 10 of resolution 1765 (2007) or his Special Representative in Côte d'Ivoire should constitute a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process for the purposes of paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572 (2004);

Also decided to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts as set out in paragraph 7 of resolution 1727 (2006) until 31 October 2008.

## **14. Items relating to West Africa**

### **A. Cross-border issues in West Africa**

#### **Initial proceedings**

##### **Decision of 25 March 2004 (4933rd meeting): statement by the President**

At its 4933rd meeting, on 25 March 2004, the Security Council adopted the item entitled “Cross-border issues in West Africa” and included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General dated 12 March 2004 on ways to combat subregional and cross-border problems in West Africa.<sup>1</sup>

In his report, the Secretary-General stressed that the various cross-border problems facing West Africa were interlinked and that none of them could be solved at the national level alone, but rather required a regional approach. To that end, the Secretary-General presented a number of practical recommendations, including by increasing harmonization among the United Nations actors in the subregion, strengthening the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) secretariat and implementing the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, promoting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, encouraging security sector reform,

reducing extortion at roadblocks and “naming and shaming” parties who contravened humanitarian norms and international law. The Secretary-General called for a fundamental change in the long-standing political approach that had prevailed in the region and promoted authoritarianism. He emphasized that preventing abuse by State and non-State actors and ensuring respect for the rights and security of the peoples living in all parts of the region must be central to any strategy to ensure stability and development in West Africa. In conclusion, the Secretary-General stressed the need for the regional and international community to provide targeted assistance to national Governments of the region and respond at an earlier stage to governance and humanitarian crises and hoped that the Council would act upon his recommendations.

The Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, in his capacity as Chairman of ECOWAS, the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Following the briefings, statements were made by all

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<sup>1</sup> S/2004/200, submitted pursuant to the statement by the President of 25 July 2003 (S/PRST/2003/11).