

humanitarian assistance, and the representative of Algeria believed that food should never become an instrument of war or diplomatic coercion.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Ibid., p. 14 (Benin); and pp. 14-15 (Algeria).

A number of Council members expressed particular concern over the crisis in Zimbabwe, particularly with respect to the estimated 275,000 people recently left homeless, which had caused further deterioration of the humanitarian situation there.

C. Peace and security in Africa

Initial proceedings⁴⁶

Deliberations of 25 September 2007 (5749th meeting)

By a letter dated 19 September 2007 to the Secretary-General,⁴⁷ the representative of France indicated that a debate on the topic “Peace and security in Africa” would be held in the Council on 25 September under the presidency of France and that the meeting would be chaired by the President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy. The letter also contained a concept paper aimed at guiding the discussion, including questions around the main challenges to peace and security in Africa and ways to meet these challenges, such as the promotion of effective partnerships between the United Nations and Africa.

At its 5749th meeting, held on 25 September 2007 at the level of Heads of State and Government,⁴⁸ the Council included the above-mentioned letter in its agenda. All Council members made statements, as did the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

⁴⁶ At its 5261st meeting, held on 14 September 2005 to consider the agenda item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”, the Council addressed the issue of peace and security in Africa and adopted resolution 1625 (2005) thereon. See section 53 (Threats to international peace and security) of the present chapter.

⁴⁷ S/2007/552.

⁴⁸ The Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Panama, Slovakia South Africa and the United States were represented by their respective Presidents; Qatar was represented by its Emir; Belgium and Italy were represented by their respective Prime Ministers; Peru and the Russian Federation were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs; the United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and China was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. The President of Ghana made a statement in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union.

The President of the Council (France) mentioned that this was the fourth summit of its kind, following similar summits in 1992, 2000 and 2005.

The Secretary-General then noted that although many African countries were facing peace and security challenges, there were some encouraging signs as well. While the United Nations was working with the African Union to better address conflicts, such as the development of an African standby force, he also intended to propose the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs to make better use of good offices and of promoting the prevention of conflicts. The United Nations would remain committed to development and peacebuilding in Africa.⁴⁹

Speakers praised the close cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and appreciated that the Secretary-General had given top priority to Africa, especially the Darfur crisis, and they all stressed the need to further enhance this partnership.

The representative of South Africa said that Africa’s capacity and resources to cope with conflicts was however missing despite Africa’s efforts to gain its own peace and stability.⁵⁰ This was echoed by many speakers who agreed on the need to promote capacity and institution-building in Africa so it could better respond to internal crises.⁵¹

While welcoming cooperation with the United Nations, African leaders held that primary responsibility for peace and security on the continent rested with African States.⁵² The representative of

⁴⁹ S/PV.5749, pp. 2-3.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 4.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 5 (Indonesia); p. 9 (Italy); p. 10 (Qatar); p. 12 (Russian Federation); p. 13 (China); and p. 17 (African Union Commission).

⁵² Ibid., p. 3 (African Union); p. 4 (South Africa); p. 12 (Congo); and p. 17 (African Union Commission).

South Africa emphasized that Africa was committed to addressing its own problems. In this respect, he mentioned a number of successful African initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan.⁵³ The representative of Panama opined that the future of Africa was in the hands of Africans, but that the international community could play an important role in working with the continent to realize its future hopes,⁵⁴ and the representative of France saw no contradiction between mobilizing assistance for Africa and the desire of African States to take their fate into their own hands.⁵⁵ The representative of the Russian Federation, for his part, expressed support for a more active and responsive role of African States in advancing the goals of national reconciliation, disarmament and governance.⁵⁶

Most speakers focused their statements on the Darfur crisis and on the situation in Somalia. Several of them noted that the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union was being tested in Darfur, and that the hybrid peacekeeping force would provide a framework for future cooperation.⁵⁷ The Chairperson of the African Union however voiced concerns that promised support thus far from partners in the international community to equip and airlift the African troops in Darfur had been inadequate and slow to materialize. Regarding the situation in Somalia, he urged the Security Council to step in and ensure that the African Union Mission in Somalia would be replaced by a peacekeeping operation by early in the next year.⁵⁸ Many other speakers also called for the provision of support to the African Union peacekeeping efforts in Somalia.⁵⁹

The representative of the United States welcomed the deployment of the African Union Mission in the Sudan, but warned that 7,000 troops were not enough, "if you believe what is taking place on the ground is genocide". He called on the Government of the Sudan to facilitate the deployment of a robust peacekeeping

force to save lives and stressed that there must be more consistent pressure to help the people of Darfur.⁶⁰ This was echoed by the representative of the United Kingdom.⁶¹ On this point, the Chairperson of the African Union said that the African Union had told the Sudanese to have faith and had no doubt that United Nations resolutions would be implemented.⁶² In addition, many speakers welcomed the resolution adopted earlier by the Council establishing a multidimensional international presence in Chad and the Central African Republic with a view of stopping the spillover effects of the Darfur crisis.⁶³

Finally, speakers suggested that economic growth and social improvement could help prevent conflict.⁶⁴ Some also stressed that it was crucial to address the grievances of the past and to fight impunity.⁶⁵ For the representative of Belgium, naming and shaming was not enough: punishment was key and the International Criminal Court had an important role to play in that regard.⁶⁶ The representatives of Slovakia, Panama and the United Kingdom expressed particular concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe, and the United Kingdom urged the Secretary-General to send a humanitarian mission there.⁶⁷

In his statement made at the end of the debate, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission noted that peace operations were financed one by one and therefore were too slow to deploy. However, although Africa must be helped, it did not justify unbridled intervention as Africa, he said, was no longer "anyone's backyard". He also suggested that the United Nations review Chapter VIII of the Charter in a creative light and integrate a regional component in all of its actions. At the same time, the dynamic of integration must result in the reduction of foreign military bases currently operating in Africa. He

⁵³ Ibid., p. 4.

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 10.

⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 15.

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 12.

⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 2 (Secretary-General); p. 5 (Indonesia); p. 8 (Italy); p. 12 (Russian Federation); and p. 14 (United Kingdom).

⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 4.

⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 8 (Italy); p. 12 (Congo); p. 15 (France); and p. 16 (African Union Commission).

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 7.

⁶¹ Ibid., p. 14.

⁶² Ibid., p. 3.

⁶³ Ibid., p. 7 (United States); p. 10 (Belgium); p. 12 (Congo); and p. 15 (United Kingdom).

⁶⁴ Ibid., p. 3 (African Union); p. 5 (Indonesia); p. 6 (Slovakia); p. 10 (Belgium); p. 12 (Congo, Russian Federation); and p. 13 (China).

⁶⁵ Ibid., p. 6 (Slovakia); p. 10 (Belgium); p. 14 (Peru); p. 15 (United Kingdom); and p. 16 (France).

⁶⁶ Ibid., p. 11.

⁶⁷ Ibid., p. 6, p. 10 and p. 15, respectively.

concluded by saying that he hoped one day Africa would have a permanent representation on the Security Council.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ Ibid., pp. 16-18.

11. The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

Decisions of 12 March 2004 to 13 September 2005: resolutions 1531 (2004), 1560 (2004), 1586 (2005) and 1622 (2005)

At its 4924th, 5032nd, 5139th, and 5259th meetings,¹ the Security Council adopted unanimously and without debate resolutions extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on the basis of reports of the Secretary-General.² In his reports, the Secretary-General noted that, *inter alia*, the general situation in and around the Temporary Security Zone remained relatively stable, but, in the absence of progress on the demarcation of the border and full cooperation with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and UNMEE, that stability should be considered as fragile; the need for implementation of the final and binding decision of 13 April 2002 of the Boundary Commission and improvement of bilateral relations through dialogue; and that the continuing stalemate in the peace process raised questions about the future of UNMEE, which was never meant to support a status quo indefinitely. He recommended that UNMEE should continue its presence at that time, as a stabilizing factor.

By those resolutions,³ the Council, *inter alia*, extended the mandate of UNMEE for subsequent six-

month periods; called on the parties concerned to cooperate with UNMEE and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and to create the necessary conditions for demarcation to proceed; demanded the removal of restrictions on UNMEE; decided to monitor closely the steps taken by the parties in the implementation of their commitments under the Algiers Agreements, including through the Boundary Commission, and to review any implications for UNMEE; and called on Eritrea to enter into dialogue and cooperation with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Decision of 4 October 2005 (5276th meeting): statement by the President

At the 5276th meeting, on 4 October 2005, the President (Romania) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁴ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its grave concern at the decision of the Government of Eritrea to restrict all types of UNMEE helicopter flights within Eritrean airspace or coming to Eritrea, effective from 5 October 2005;

Emphasized that the aforementioned decision gravely contravened the call in resolution 1312 (2000) on the parties to provide UNMEE with the access, assistance, support and protection required for the performance of its duties;

Reaffirmed that both parties bore the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Algiers Agreements and the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission;

Called on both parties to show maximum restraint and to refrain from any threat of use of force against each other.

Decision of 23 November 2005 (5308th meeting): resolution 1640 (2005)

At the 5308th meeting, on 23 November 2005, the President (Russian Federation) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 16 November 2005 from the representative of Japan addressed to the

¹ Held on 12 March and 14 September 2004 and 14 March and 13 September 2005. During this period the Council also held a number of meetings in private, with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B. The meetings were, held on 10 March 2004 (4922nd), 10 September 2004 (5029th), 11 March 2005 (5138th), 9 September 2005 (5257th), 19 October 2005 (5286th), 13 March 2006 (5383rd), 8 May 2006 (5433rd), 26 September 2006 (5536th), 16 January 2007 (5620th) and 24 July 2007 (5722nd).

² S/2004/180, S/2004/708, S/2005/142, S/2005/553 and Add.1.

³ Resolutions 1531 (2004), 1560 (2004), 1586 (2005) and 1622 (2005).

⁴ S/PRST/2005/47.