

of the Secretary-General for a new office to replace UNIOSIL at the end of September 2008.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> S/PV.5813, pp. 2-3.

## 7. The situation in the Great Lakes region

### **Deliberations of 27 October 2004 (5065th meeting)**

At its 5065th meeting, on 27 October 2004, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. No Council members made statements during the meeting.

In his briefing, the Special Representative outlined the steps forward with respect to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and the first summit to be held in the context of the Conference. Organized jointly by the United Nations and the African Union, the objective of the Conference was the adoption of a regional stability, security and development pact.

The Special Representative noted that the preparatory regional process preceding the Conference had yielded several results. There had been an increase in the number of members in the Conference, which now consisted of 11 core members.<sup>1</sup> The enlargement was important for ensuring the consistency and unity of the Conference. A number of priority areas had also emerged as a result of the process, including peace and security, governance and democracy, economic development, regional integration and humanitarian and social issues.

In concluding, he stated that following the Dar es Salaam summit on 19 and 20 November, an inter-ministerial committee would be set up, tasked with creating a programme of action and a protocol to implement the Declaration adopted at the summit. In the light of that protocol and programme of action, the stage would be set for the Nairobi summit to be held in 2005.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The members now included Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, the Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

<sup>2</sup> S/PV.5065, pp. 2-4.

### **Decision of 27 January 2006 (5359th meeting): resolution 1653 (2006)**

At its 5359th meeting, held at the ministerial level on 27 January 2006, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region" and a letter dated 18 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania addressed to the Secretary-General.<sup>3</sup> All Council members made statements, as did 30 other Member States.<sup>4</sup> Statements were also made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, and the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid of the European Commission.<sup>5</sup>

The President (United Republic of Tanzania) drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Secretary-General dated 25 January 2006, regarding the preparations for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.<sup>6</sup> She also drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution.<sup>7</sup>

During the debate, most speakers urged unshakable commitment to the Great Lakes region, stressing that the peace processes would remain fragile for some time, and that the promise of a strong Central Africa risked relapsing into conflict without steadfast international support and economic assistance. At the same time, many speakers called for enhanced cooperation between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in

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<sup>3</sup> S/2006/27.

<sup>4</sup> The speakers were the representatives of Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria (on behalf of the European Union), Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

<sup>5</sup> S/PV.5359.

<sup>6</sup> S/2006/46.

<sup>7</sup> S/2006/51.

order to promote and maintain peace and security in the region.

Speakers generally agreed that the regional approach taken by the Security Council was the right one, and that the region's long-term stability required a growing pool of democratic nations with inclusive governments, stable institutions and functioning judiciaries.

Among recent positive developments speakers highlighted were the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in November 2004 and the resulting Dar es Salaam Declaration, as both a framework for negotiations and an outline of guiding principles for action. Speakers also stressed the importance of implementing the reconstruction plan set out by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region.

The President, speaking in her capacity as representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, recalled the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, and stressed the need to work together to avoid a repeat of such catastrophes and to create a better future. Collective political will was needed to prevent and resolve conflicts, consolidate peace and build institutions of democratic governance based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. She emphasized that the Security Council was the key partner in promoting and maintaining peace and security in the region, and expressed appreciation at the response and initiatives of the Council to work with the region. Nevertheless, she stressed, residual and new challenges remained. Thus, there was a need to consolidate what had been achieved so far and mobilize the support of the international community in accomplishing those objectives. The newly established Peacebuilding Commission should focus its early attention on the region, as the necessary political environment for irreversible peace was created. She said that the countries of the region wanted to assure the Security Council and other members of the international community of their collective political determination to make the Great Lakes process a practical accomplishment. They were working at the national and international levels to create mechanisms to strengthen mutual confidence and trust as a basis for peace and stability in the region. Similarly, they had embraced democracy and good governance not only as intrinsic values, but also as necessary for their peaceful coexistence and crucial for their development. The

desirability of a regional approach in that endeavour could not be overemphasized.<sup>8</sup>

The representative of the Congo said that recent developments had shown that significant progress was being made in terms of peace and security. While stating that the political transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was going favourably after the organization of the constitutional referendum, he encouraged all parties there to work tirelessly within the peaceful transition for peace and stability.<sup>9</sup>

The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the partnership that had been created between the Great Lakes States and the international community to build a new regional security order. In the context of efforts undertaken by his government to strengthen domestic security, he appreciated the publication of a list of persons to be subject to sanctions for violating the arms embargo against his country, as well as resolution 1649 (2005), which provided for sanctions against those exploiting natural resources. He stated that his Government wished to request the Council to exert pressure on States to extradite criminals responsible for violations.<sup>10</sup>

The representative of Rwanda commended the progress of the political process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and noted that many of the pillars of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of 1999 had slowly but surely been realized. Instead of confrontation and conflict, States in the region were now exploring avenues of increased cooperation. Nevertheless, the representative stressed, in order to ensure lasting peace, the "unfinished business" of the Lusaka agreement needed to be addressed. There still remained one key impediment to lasting peace — the presence of "genocidal forces" and other armed groups in the region, whose sole purpose was the continued destabilization of the region.<sup>11</sup>

The representative of Uganda stressed that the most urgent challenge and the biggest obstacle to peace in the Great Lakes region remained the problem of the negative forces, especially the Allied Democratic Forces, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the People's Redemption Army, and the Lord's

<sup>8</sup> S/PV.5359, pp. 3-4.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., pp. 4-5.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-8.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., pp. 21-23.

Resistance Army (LRA).<sup>12</sup> The representative of France emphasized that armed groups in the region, whether or not they were a threat to security, were the main cause of suffering; external support to them must be stopped. He also said that the question of protection of civilians was on the minds of all, as women and children remained at the mercy of LRA in northern Uganda. The recent killing of eight Guatemalan peacekeepers serving with MONUC had moreover given the problem a regional dimension.<sup>13</sup>

Many speakers welcomed the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission pursuant to Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) and General Assembly resolution 60/80, and expressed hope that it would play an important role in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region.<sup>14</sup>

Following the debate, the draft resolution<sup>15</sup> was adopted unanimously as resolution 1653 (2006), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Urged the countries of the Great Lakes region to continue in their collective efforts to develop a subregional approach for promoting good relations, peaceful coexistence, peaceful resolution of disputes as envisaged in the Dar es Salaam Declaration;

Called upon the countries of the region to agree on confidence-building measures based on effective and concrete actions;

Urged all States concerned to take action to bring to justice perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and to take appropriate measures of international cooperation and judicial assistance in this regard;

Strongly condemned the activities of militias and armed groups operating in the Great Lakes region;

Called upon all States in the region to deepen their cooperation with a view to putting an end to the activities of illegal armed groups; urged the governments concerned in the region to enhance their cooperation to promote lawful and

transparent exploitation of natural resources among themselves and in the region.

#### **Decision of 16 November 2006 (5566th meeting): statement by the President**

At the 5566th meeting, on 16 November 2006, the President (Peru) drew the attention of Council members to a letter dated 3 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the President of the Council, transmitting the agreement on the cessation of hostilities between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army.<sup>16</sup> No statements were made during the meeting. The President made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>17</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Welcomed efforts aimed at bringing an end to the long-running conflict in northern Uganda; welcomed the cessation of hostilities which took effect on 29 August 2006, and was renewed on 1 November 2006, and stressed the importance of both parties respecting that cessation of hostilities;

Demanded that the Lord's Resistance Army immediately release all women, children and other non-combatants, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict, and that the peace process be concluded expeditiously;

Welcomed the announcement by the Government of Uganda of the establishment of a Joint Monitoring Committee to oversee the delivery of a prioritized Emergency Action Plan to tackle the humanitarian issues in northern Uganda.

#### **Decision of 20 December 2006 (5603rd meeting): statement by the President**

At the 5603rd meeting, on 20 December 2006, the President (Qatar) drew attention to a letter dated 4 October 2006 from the Secretary-General, stating his intention to extend the mandate of the Office of his Special Representative for the Great Lakes region until 31 December 2006, and to finalize the preparations for the second summit on the Great Lakes region, to be held in Nairobi on 14 and 15 December 2006,<sup>18</sup> and a letter

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<sup>12</sup> S/PV.5359 (Resumption I), p. 16.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 10-12.

<sup>14</sup> S/PV.5359, pp. 5-9 (Democratic Republic of the Congo); pp. 9-10 (Namibia); pp. 10-12 (Botswana); pp. 16-18 (Qatar); pp. 21-23 (Rwanda); and pp. 29-31 (United Kingdom); S/PV.5359 (Resumption I), pp. 2-3 (Canada); pp. 4-6 (Burundi); pp. 13-15 (Kenya); pp. 18-20 (Zambia); 20-21 (South Africa); pp. 30-31 (Australia); p. 31 (Tunisia); pp. 32-34 (Egypt); pp. 34-35 (Republic of Korea); pp. 35-36 (Algeria); pp. 39-40 (Nigeria); pp. 40-41 (Pakistan); p. 42 (Brazil); and pp. 43-44 (Cameroon).

<sup>15</sup> S/2006/51.

<sup>16</sup> S/2006/861.

<sup>17</sup> S/PRST/2006/45.

<sup>18</sup> S/2006/811, also transmitting a letter dated 27 September 2006 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

containing the President's response to the Secretary-General.<sup>19</sup>

The Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region and the First Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Following the briefings, all Council members made statements, as did the representatives of Canada<sup>20</sup> the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland<sup>21</sup> and Rwanda.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region heralded the Nairobi Pact of 15 December as historic and forward-looking. He said the summit had been a convergence of efforts to turn the page on what, for decades, had seemed like an inevitable spiral of violence, conflict, war and humanitarian and social tragedy. He highlighted that it should be remembered, however, that 6 of the 11 countries in the region had emerged from violent conflicts; a seventh was still confronted by a regional rebellion; and an eighth was trying to implement three peace agreements simultaneously. The Security Council itself knew that the nature of interrelations between peoples and countries of a region meant that an internal conflict could easily become regional. It must be ensured, therefore, that the United Nations continued to play a role of peacemaking and peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region, and there must be continued close cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations at this crucial time in the history of the region.<sup>22</sup>

The First Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, noting that the Security Council had been instrumental in convening the Conference, appealed to the Council to extend the Office of the Special Representative until March 2007, in order to assist the

new Conference Secretariat by providing technical support and allowing a smooth handover of the residual responsibilities. The future of the region lay in implementing the Nairobi Pact, and the Secretariat would hold high the values of ownership, partnership and complementarity that had guided the Great Lakes region peace process thus far.<sup>23</sup>

In their statements, all Council members reiterated their appreciation of the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. Members pointed out that, although that region had seen recurring ethnic violence, wars and grave human rights violations, there were strong signs of improvement. Speakers in particular drew attention to the successful elections in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the ceasefire agreement between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army. Many speakers underlined the value and necessity of the regional dimension of approaches to conflict prevention and development in the Great Lakes region, as well as the cooperation between regional organizations, the United Nations and other international actors. Several members highlighted the need to fight illegal exploitation of natural resources, which was the main channel for funding of conflicts.<sup>24</sup>

The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, noting that the Council had been seized with issues of the Great Lakes region for more than 10 years, acknowledged the Council's role in shepherding the peace processes in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, the Sudan and Uganda. He stated that Rwanda was no longer on the agenda; Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had held democratic elections; and a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was being implemented in southern Sudan. He further opined that once implemented, the Nairobi Pact would be an indispensable partner of the Security Council in maintaining peace and security in East and Central Africa. It bore all the hallmarks of what the United Nations stood for in pursuit of peace, security,

<sup>19</sup> S/2006/812, in which the President reported that members of the Council had taken note of the Secretary-General's intention to extend the mandate of the Special Representative.

<sup>20</sup> On behalf of Canada and the Netherlands, co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region.

<sup>21</sup> On behalf of the European Union; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Romania, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine aligned themselves with the statement.

<sup>22</sup> S/PV.5603, pp. 2-6.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 7-9.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14 (Ghana); pp. 17-18 (Russian Federation); p. 20 (Peru); pp. 20-21 (Greece); and pp. 22-25 (Finland, on behalf of the European Union).

development and respect for human rights to attain larger freedom in a comprehensive manner.<sup>25</sup>

The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo described the second summit on the Great Lakes region as an historic event for the region as well as for the international community. She welcomed the new momentum based on a new regional security order, the expansion and integration of economic and commercial space, democracy and good governance, the stabilization and improvement of the collective handling of social and humanitarian problems resulting from the internal readjustments going on in each of the Great Lakes countries, and the adaptation to the rules of this new peaceful coexistence among States. She further noted that this new agreement had been crowned with success in the signing of the regional Pact for Stability, Security and Development. She stressed that the Council had identified three principal and closely linked aspects of the regional conflict that should be addressed in parallel: the outcome of the inter-Congolese dialogue, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Congolese territory, and the disarmament, demobilization and repatriation of armed groups.<sup>26</sup>

After the debate, the President made a statement<sup>27</sup> on behalf of the Council, by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Welcomed the decision to establish a Regional Follow-up Mechanism, to include a Conference Secretariat, as well as the decision to establish the offices of the Conference Secretariat in Bujumbura;

Supported the request of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee to extend the mandate of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for a final period of three months, until 31 March 2007, with a view to ensuring regional ownership of the Follow-up Mechanism and completing successfully the transition to the Conference Secretariat;

Appealed to the countries of the region, the Group of Friends, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the international community to consider providing assistance to the Conference Secretariat and the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development in the Great Lakes Region, and to support implementation by the parties of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development.

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<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 24-26.

<sup>27</sup> S/PRST/2006/57.

### **Deliberations of 9 March 2007 (5637th meeting)**

At its 5637th meeting, on 9 March 2007, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. The representatives of Belgium, China, the Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States also took the floor.<sup>28</sup>

The Special Representative focused on the transition of his office's responsibility to the secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, as well as on the lessons learned during his four-year tenure.

The Special Representative stated that, while his office had received diplomatic and political support from the Council in New York and in the field, this support could have been more effective if it had been accompanied by support in terms of staff recruitment. The Council preferred to maintain the Office's staffing at the skeletal level, leaving the office dependent on personnel support from other United Nations agencies and offices. He stressed that it was essential that the Council acknowledge the consequences. The Council could not issue a mandate as important as organizing an international conference on the Great Lakes region that included 11 countries without providing the resources necessary to complete the task. The Special Representative also emphasized the importance of the Council in supporting and accompanying the ratification process of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. He stated that the Conference process had created an atmosphere of trust, but this atmosphere was tenuous and, without prompt ratification and rapid implementation of the Pact, the situation could deteriorate at any moment.<sup>29</sup>

All speakers expressed gratitude to the Special Representative for a job well done and concurred with him that the international community, particularly the United Nations and the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region, should continue to provide support and cooperation with a view to facilitating the region's peace process as well as its reconstruction and development. The representatives of France and the Congo hoped that the United Nations would remain

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<sup>28</sup> The representatives of Panama and Peru did not make statements during the meeting.

<sup>29</sup> S/PV.5637, pp. 2-4.

committed to the region,<sup>30</sup> with the latter also calling on the Council, together with the Secretariat, to define all modalities through which the United Nations could provide assistance.<sup>31</sup>

The representatives of the United States, Italy and the United Kingdom stated that the Pact on Security, Stability and Development would lead to lasting peace in the region.<sup>32</sup> The representative of South Africa held that its provisions would provide positive means for sustainable development.<sup>33</sup> These speakers therefore called for the prompt ratification of the Pact by all concerned States and for its full implementation. The representatives of Belgium and Qatar stressed the need for the Follow-up Mechanism, through the Conference Secretariat, to be fully operational as soon as possible.<sup>34</sup> Underlining the regional ownership of the process, the representatives of the United States and Slovakia called on the States in the region to carry out their commitments under the Pact by, among other things, fulfilling their budget obligations to ensure the functioning of the secretariat.<sup>35</sup> The representatives of the United Kingdom, Italy and Slovakia expressed frustration at the lack of progress in the Juba talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army.<sup>36</sup> The representative of the United Kingdom also drew attention to the Darfur crisis, deploring the fact that the people in Darfur had been denied "most basic means of survival".<sup>37</sup>

Responding to questions raised and comments made, the Special Representative underlined that the lack of good governance and widespread corruption had been among the causes of the conflicts in the region over the past decades. With regard to the Pact, he said that it would come into force after the ratification by 8 of the 11 signatories. He cautioned that as long as the treaty had not been duly ratified, there would be no obligation for a Government to implement it. The Special Representative maintained that the United Nations must be equipped with the

mechanisms and strategies to support implementation of the Pact, both at the institutional and operational levels. He noted that the United Nations Development Programme had already finalized its regional strategy and other agencies were doing the same. On the financial front, the Special Representative indicated that implementing the whole range of measures approved within the framework of the Conference would cost about \$2 billion. At this juncture, he opined that the "fire-fighter approach" was insufficient; rather, it was better to prevent conflict than to have to pay for reconstruction and rehabilitation afterwards.<sup>38</sup>

**Decision of 22 March 2007 (5644th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the 5644th meeting, on 22 March 2007, the President (South Africa) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>39</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Recalled and reaffirmed its presidential statement of 16 November 2006 on talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army and stressed its support for a negotiated settlement;

Urged LRA to immediately release all women, children and other non-combatants;

Welcomed the appointment of, and efforts undertaken so far by, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the LRA-affected areas, and looked forward to his continued engagement on the issue;

Welcomed the meeting between the Government of Uganda and LRA on 11 March 2007, with community representatives present, and the progress made towards a resumption of talks; and looked forward to further progress in the talks and the renewal of the cessation of hostilities agreement;

Urged the United Nations Secretariat and the countries and regional actors involved to provide further support where possible to the Special Envoy and the mediation team; noted the improved security and humanitarian situation in northern Uganda but looked forward to further progress on improving the living conditions for civilians there;

Urged the international community and the Government of Uganda to sustain and improve humanitarian and development support, including through Uganda's Emergency Action Plan as overseen by the Joint Monitoring Committee.

**Decision of 21 November 2007 (5783rd  
meeting): statement by the President**

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid., pp. 14-15.

<sup>39</sup> S/PRST/2007/6.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., p. 7 (France) and p. 8 (Congo).

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., p. 9 (United States); pp. 10-11 (Italy); and p. 11 (United Kingdom).

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., pp. 13-14.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 6 (Belgium); and pp. 12-13 (Qatar).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., p. 9 (United States); pp. 11-12 (Slovakia).

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., p. 11 (United Kingdom); pp. 10-11 (Italy); pp. 11-12 (Slovakia).

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

At the 5783rd meeting, on 21 November 2007, the President (Indonesia) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>40</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Commended the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda for their joint communiqué on a common approach to end the threat posed to peace and stability in both countries and the Great Lakes region, signed in Nairobi on 9 November 2007;<sup>41</sup>

Expressed its appreciation for the efforts undertaken in this respect by the Secretary-General through the special

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<sup>40</sup> S/PRST/2007/44.

<sup>41</sup> S/2007/679, annex.

mission carried out by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs;

Recalled that the continued presence of illegal armed groups, in particular the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the ex-Rwandan Armed Forces/Interahamwe and the dissident militia of Laurent Nkunda, was one of the root causes of conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and constituted a threat to regional stability;

Reiterated its demand that these groups lay down their arms and engage voluntarily and without preconditions in their demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, as appropriate;

Encouraged the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda to implement fully their commitments in the Nairobi communiqué;

Stressed its readiness to facilitate and support the implementation of these commitments;

Reiterated its full support to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its action on the ground.

## 8. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

### **Decision of 15 January 2004 (4894th meeting): resolution 1522 (2004)**

At the 4894th meeting,<sup>1</sup> on 15 January 2004, in which the representatives of Belgium and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were invited to participate, the President (Chile) drew attention to a draft resolution;<sup>2</sup> it was adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1522 (2004), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided that its demand for the demilitarization of Kisangani and its surroundings laid down in paragraph 3 of resolution 1304 (2000) should not apply to restructured and integrated forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and

to the armed forces included in the comprehensive programme for formation of an integrated and restructured national army;

Urged the Government of National Unity and Transition to take appropriate measures for the restructuring and integration of the armed forces;

Called upon the international community to provide further assistance for the integration and restructuring of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with resolution 1493 (2003).

### **Decision of 12 March 2004 (4926th meeting): resolution 1533 (2004)**

On 17 November 2003 the Secretary-General submitted the fourteenth report on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC),<sup>3</sup> in which he observed that, while significant progress had been achieved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the previous five months, considerable work remained to be done on a number of key issues of the peace process. On the positive side, former belligerents were working

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<sup>1</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 Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B. The meetings were held on 23 July 2004 (5009th), 23 August 2004 (5023rd), 22 March 2005 (5146th), 29 September 2005 (5271st), 27 September 2006 (5537th), 4 April 2007 (5656th) and 29 November 2007 (5787th).

<sup>2</sup> S/2004/25.

<sup>3</sup> S/2003/1098, submitted pursuant to resolutions 1417 (2002) and 1493 (2003).