

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6224th 25 November 2009	Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its third session (S/2009/444)		Rule 37 10 Member States ^h Rule 39 Chair of the Commission	All Council members and all invitees ⁱ	

^a Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Chairman of the Council of Ministers), Brazil, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Netherlands (Minister for Foreign Affairs), New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Sierra Leone (Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation), Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey.

^b The representative of Jamaica made a statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the representative of Slovenia made a statement on behalf of the European Union.

^c Bangladesh, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Netherlands, Norway and Sierra Leone (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation).

^d The representative of France made a statement on behalf of the European Union.

^e Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic (Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Central African Republic in charge of National Defence, Veterans' Affairs, Victims of War, Disarmament and Restructuring of the Army), Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, India, Italy, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Somalia (Minister for Foreign Affairs), South Africa (Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation), Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Uruguay.

^f Uganda was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the United Kingdom by its Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations.

^g The representative of Sweden made a statement on behalf of the European Union.

^h Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Finland, India, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland.

ⁱ The representative of Sweden made a statement on behalf of the European Union.

39. Items relating to the maintenance of international peace and security

A. The maintenance of international peace and security: role of the Security Council in supporting security sector reform

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held two consecutive meetings in connection with its role in supporting security sector reform, one at which it heard briefings on the role of the United Nations in security sector reform and the other at which it adopted a presidential statement on the importance of and the need for continued engagement of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform.

12 May 2008: presidential statement concerning security sector reform

On 12 May 2008, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, who presented his report on the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform,⁷²⁰ and three other speakers. All speakers emphasized the sovereign right and responsibility of countries in implementing security sector reform and recognized the importance of coordinated support by the United Nations in sustaining the security sector reform process. The representative of Slovakia pointed out the need for continued United Nations capacity-building in security sector reform.⁷²¹ The representative of South Africa emphasized that the new concept of security included not only military aspects

⁷²⁰ S/2008/39.

⁷²¹ S/PV.5889, pp. 4-6.

but also political, cultural and socioeconomic dimensions, as agreed at the workshop organized jointly with Slovakia in Cape Town, South Africa, on 7 and 8 November 2007.⁷²² She stated that security sector reform implied an all-inclusive process addressing the needs of the people, including those of marginalized groups in society.⁷²³ The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission noted that the Commission could be a valuable forum for coordinated efforts by all relevant actors on the basis of integrated strategies.⁷²⁴

⁷²² See statement of the Co-Chairs of the International Workshop on Enhancing United Nations Support for Security Sector Reform in Africa: Towards an African Perspective (S/2007/687, annex).

⁷²³ S/PV.5889, pp. 6-7.

⁷²⁴ Ibid., pp. 8-9.

At a meeting on the same date, the Council adopted a presidential statement,⁷²⁵ in which it underlined the need for continued United Nations engagement in security sector reform and emphasized the need for a holistic and coherent United Nations approach. The Council underlined that United Nations support to security sector reform must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law. It also recognized the importance of continued close cooperation and partnerships with non-United Nations actors, in particular regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations.

⁷²⁵ S/PRST/2008/14.

Meetings: role of the Security Council in supporting security sector reform

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5889th 12 May 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on securing peace and development: the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform (S/2008/39)		Rule 37 Slovakia (Minister for Foreign Affairs) Rule 39 Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission	Secretary-General, 1 Council member (South Africa ^a), Slovakia (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission	
5890th 12 May 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on securing peace and development: the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform (S/2008/39)				S/PRST/2008/14

^a South Africa was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

Overview

In 2008 and 2009, the Council held five meetings in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, including one high-level meeting and one private meeting,⁷²⁶ and adopted three presidential statements and one resolution. The Council considered four sub-items: (a) mediation and settlement of disputes; (b) strengthening collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments; (c) respect for international humanitarian law; and (d) nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

23 September 2008 and 21 April 2009: mediation and settlement of disputes

On 23 September 2008, at the high-level meeting of the Council, the Secretary-General, acknowledging that the United Nations did not claim a monopoly on the settlement of disputes, considered that the Council played a central role in mediating and settling disputes. He observed that its most important contributions had come when it was unified, prepared to use its leverage, such as targeted sanctions, supported one clear chief mediator and gave the process space.⁷²⁷ Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi highlighted several principles at the heart of United Nations mediation efforts: understanding of a conflict in all its complexity before passing judgement and taking decisions; including all parties to the conflict in the political process; putting the interest of all the peoples first; and supporting the mediation efforts by all Council members and the membership of the Organization as a whole.⁷²⁸ Drawing upon past experiences of their own and the Organization, all Council members recognized the role of the United Nations, including the Security Council, in the mediation and settlement of disputes, and also the advantage of involving regional and subregional organizations in view of their geographical proximity to and familiarity with the context of the conflicts. Many speakers agreed with the assessment provided in the briefings on the various qualities and requirements of mediators for success, and emphasized the

importance of the good offices of the Secretary-General and his representatives. A number of speakers also highlighted the important role of women in the settlement of disputes, and took note of the establishment of the Mediation Support Unit in the Department of Political Affairs, which provides expertise to support the mediation efforts of the Organization and regional and subregional organizations.

The President of the Council then made a statement,⁷²⁹ in which the Council affirmed that, as the organ with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, it had a responsibility to promote and support mediation as an important means for the pacific settlement of disputes, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that mediation processes conducted by or under the auspices of the United Nations were guided by the purposes and principles of the Organization.

On 21 April 2009, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs introduced the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing mediation and its support activities.⁷³⁰ Speakers were unanimous in recognizing the importance of mediation, with many citing Chapter VI and relevant Articles of the Charter as the basis for the role of the United Nations and the Council. A number of speakers held that mediation was an efficient and cost-effective tool in addressing conflicts, and in that context stressed the need to integrate mediation capacities in peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates. Discussing the comparative advantage in mediation of actors other than the United Nations, especially regional and subregional organizations, several speakers emphasized the need for support to build their capacities. They also stressed the Council’s role in promoting, supporting and sustaining mediation efforts. During the discussion, some delegations touched upon the question of balance in Council actions under Chapters VI and VII of the Charter and such issues as transitional justice, the low representation of women in mediation processes and the handling of spoilers of peace processes, including by sanctions.⁷³¹

⁷²⁶ 6078th meeting, held on 29 January 2009.

⁷²⁷ S/PV.5979, pp. 4-5.

⁷²⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-7.

⁷²⁹ S/PRST/2008/36.

⁷³⁰ S/2009/189.

⁷³¹ S/PV.6108 and S/PV.6108 (Resumption 1).

In a presidential statement of the same date,⁷³² the Council recognized the importance of mediation, to be launched in the earliest possible phases of conflicts as well as in the implementation phases of signed peace agreements. It urged the Secretariat to work with all partners to ensure the availability of well-trained, experienced and geographically diverse mediation experts at all levels to ensure the timely and highest quality support to mediation efforts. In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to work in partnership with Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant partners in a coordinated and mutually complementary manner when cooperating in a mediation process.

19 November 2008: strengthening collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments

During the discussion on 19 November 2008, concerning the strengthening of collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments, speakers were unanimous in recognizing the importance of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, not only for the achievement of collective security but also for economic and social development. Many pointed to the vast resources used on weapons and growing military expenditures, which could instead be spent on development. Several speakers touched upon the role of the Council in strengthening collective security and arms regulation in accordance with Article 26 and within the context of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. While recognizing the central role of the United Nations in dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation, some speakers underscored the importance of preserving the mandate of the General Assembly and other multilateral disarmament machinery of the United Nations. At the same time, a number of speakers deplored the lack of progress in the Conference on Disarmament. Cooperation with regional and subregional organizations was also stressed in the context of promoting collective security. Several speakers expressed the view that the role of the Council in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament was to support international arms control. Speakers also discussed, among other issues, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and

⁷³² S/PRST/2009/8.

conventional arms, including illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and the related initiative on developing an arms trade treaty.⁷³³

By a presidential statement of the same date,⁷³⁴ the Council, *inter alia*, considered that the regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces constituted one of the most important measures to promote international peace and security with the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources. The Council also called upon Member States, regional and subregional organizations, the Secretariat and the competent United Nations funds and programmes to make further efforts to preserve, facilitate, develop and strengthen international and regional cooperation in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, through, *inter alia*, further implementation, development and strengthening of relevant agreements and instruments.

29 January 2009: respect for international humanitarian law

At the 6078th meeting, held in private on 29 January 2009, the Council engaged in an exchange of views concerning respect for international humanitarian law.

24 September 2009: nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

At the high-level summit meeting on 24 September 2009, the Council adopted resolution [1887 \(2009\)](#) by which it, *inter alia*, emphasized that a situation of non-compliance with non-proliferation obligations should be brought to the attention of the Council, which should determine if that situation constituted a threat to international peace and security. Emphasizing its primary responsibility in addressing such threats, the Council called upon States party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to comply fully with all their obligations and fulfil their commitments under the Treaty. The Council also declared its resolve to monitor closely any situations involving the proliferation of nuclear weapons, their means of delivery or related material, including to or by non-State actors as they were defined in resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), and to take such measures as might be necessary to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security.

⁷³³ S/PV.6017 and S/PV.6017 (Resumption 1).

⁷³⁴ S/PRST/2008/43.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the President explained that the meeting had been convened to address, at the highest level, the spread and use of nuclear weapons, which was a fundamental threat to the security of all peoples and all nations.⁷³⁵ The Secretary-General, praising the meeting as the first Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, held that nuclear disarmament was the only “sane path to a safer world” and hoped that the Council would sustain this momentum. He further urged the Council to start consultations on new ways to increase transparency regarding the weapons programmes of the recognized nuclear-weapon States, promote universal membership in key treaties, work to improve compliance and assess the need for new agreements, including a nuclear weapons convention.⁷³⁶ Council members emphasized the centrality of the Treaty as the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime, and several called for supporting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), particularly its safeguard functions. In respect of the three pillars of the Treaty, many speakers maintained the right of every country to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, while some underscored that such programmes needed to abide by non-proliferation agreements. Many speakers hoped that the present

Council meeting would bring the world closer to the ultimate objective of a nuclear-free world, as called for by the President of the United States.

The representative of the Russian Federation held that the measures contained in resolution 1887 (2009) were a realistic programme of action for the international community to respond effectively to common threats in the nuclear sphere.⁷³⁷ A number of speakers stressed the responsibility of the Council in dealing with the issue of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament when international peace and security was threatened, drawing attention to the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, as well as the issue of nuclear weapons falling in the hands of non-State actors. They also called for early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the advancement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. The Director General of IAEA stated that the Agency depended on a supportive political process, with the Council at its core, and, therefore, emphasized that the Council needed to develop a comprehensive compliance mechanism to address cases of non-compliance with safeguards obligations or of countries withdrawing from the Treaty.⁷³⁸

⁷³⁵ S/PV.6191, p. 2.

⁷³⁶ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

⁷³⁷ Ibid., p. 6.

⁷³⁸ Ibid., pp. 17-18.

Meetings: maintenance of international peace and security

<i>Meeting date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5979th 23 September 2008	Mediation and settlement of disputes Letter dated 3 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary- General (S/2008/590)		Rule 39 Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi	Secretary- General, all Council members, ^a Mr. Brahimi	S/PRST/2008/36

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<i>Meeting date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6017th 19 November 2008	Strengthening collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments Letter dated 10 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/697)		Rule 37 23 Member States ^b Rule 39 High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members ^c and all invitees	S/PRST/2008/43
6108th 21 April 2009	Mediation and settlement of disputes Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing mediation and its support activities (S/2009/189)		Rule 37 26 Member States ^d Rule 39 Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members and all invitees	S/PRST/2009/8
6191st 24 September 2009	Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament	Draft resolution S/2009/473 Concept paper for the Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament (S/2009/463 , annex)	Rule 39 Director General of IAEA	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^e Director General of IAEA	Resolution 1887 (2009) 15-0-0

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to Meetings: maintenance of international peace and security Table)

- ^a Three Council members were represented at the level of Head of State or Government: Burkina Faso (President), Panama (President) and Croatia (Prime Minister). Seven Council members were represented at the ministerial level: Belgium, France, Indonesia, Italy and South Africa (Minister for Foreign Affairs); Russian Federation (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs); and United Kingdom (Minister of State for Africa, Asia and United Nations Affairs).
- ^b Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile (Special Envoy of the President and Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies), Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland and United Republic of Tanzania.
- ^c Costa Rica was represented by its President, and Panama was represented by its Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs. France made a statement on behalf of the European Union.
- ^d Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Egypt, Finland, Indonesia, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.
- ^e Eleven Council members were represented by the President: Austria, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Mexico, Russian Federation, Uganda, United States and Viet Nam; Japan, Turkey and the United Kingdom were represented by their respective Prime Ministers.

40. Security Council mission

Overview

During the period under review the Security Council completed four missions in which members of the Council visited the field. The destinations of the missions included several African countries,⁷³⁹ Afghanistan and Haiti, and consisted of all members of the Council. The Council held four meetings in connection with the item entitled “Security Council mission”, and held briefings by the heads of the missions on their findings in those countries. The table below provides an overview of all the missions and associated meetings.

18 June 2008: Security Council mission to Africa, 31 May to 10 June 2008

On 18 June 2008, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa”. At the meeting the Council heard briefings by the representatives of South Africa and the United Kingdom, who jointly led the mission

to Djibouti in connection with the situation in Somalia, and to the Sudan; the representative of France who led the mission to Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the representative of Burkina Faso, who led the mission to Côte d’Ivoire.

The representative of South Africa noted that the meetings in Djibouti between the mission and leaders of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia were an opportunity for the people of Somalia to put their case before the members of the Council. It also showed that the Somalis were committed to finding a political solution through dialogue. In that regard, he stated that the President of Somalia made it clear that the Transitional Federal Government was willing to engage in dialogue and reach agreement with all the parties in Somalia. Regarding the presence of Ethiopian troops, he noted that the Transitional Federal Government was adamant that those troops must remain until a political agreement was reached, while the opposition was equally adamant that they should leave Somalia as soon as possible. The mission had assured the Somali parties that should there be an improvement in the security situation and a solid political agreement, the Council would consider a

⁷³⁹ Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti (in connection with the situation in Somalia), Ethiopia (African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa), Liberia, Rwanda and Sudan.