

Nigeria was concerned about the lack of a reference to resolution 690 (1991) in the draft resolution and called for involvement of the African Union countries in the efforts to find an international solution to the conflict.¹¹ Other speakers referred to the question of

¹¹ Ibid., p. 3.

human rights in the territory of Western Sahara, and noted the efforts made and measures taken by Morocco to consolidate and strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights.¹²

¹² Ibid., p. 4 (United Kingdom, France); and p. 5 (Gabon).

Meetings: the situation concerning Western Sahara

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6305 30 April 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2010/175)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom, United States (S/2010/216)	Spain	8 Council members (Austria, France, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States)	Resolution 1920 (2010) 15-0-0
6523 27 April 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2011/249)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/268)	Spain	5 Council members (France, Gabon, Nigeria, South Africa, United Kingdom)	Resolution 1979 (2011) 15-0-0

2. The situation in Liberia

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 10 meetings on the situation in Liberia, including two closed meetings with troop-contributing countries,¹³ and adopted five resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter. The Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

During the meetings, the Council considered the mandate of UNMIL, which was extended twice, for a period of one year each time.¹⁴ It also considered the preparations for the presidential and legislative elections held in October 2011, and the political and security challenges facing the country.

¹³ See S/PV.6376 and S/PV.6608.

¹⁴ Resolutions 1938 (2010) and 2008 (2011).

The Council renewed the sanctions measures and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts twice. On 17 December 2010, by resolution 1961 (2010), the Council renewed the travel ban and arms embargo for 12 months. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also extended for 12 months, until 16 December 2011. On 14 December 2011, by resolution 2025 (2011), the Council again renewed the travel ban and arms embargo for 12 months. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also extended for 12 months.¹⁵

¹⁵ For more information on the sanctions measures, see part VII, sect. III, with regard to measures adopted in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter. For information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I. B.1, with regard to the Security Council committees overseeing specific sanctions measures.

**8 September 2010 to 13 September 2011:
briefings concerning the situation in Liberia
and the mandate of UNMIL**

On 8 September 2010, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of UNMIL, who reported that, while the overall situation in Liberia was stable, it remained fragile and additional progress was needed in a number of areas to consolidate peace. She stated that the Government had requested that it be added to the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, which, if realized, would offer a unique opportunity for the Council and the Commission to ensure that peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts would become mutually supportive. Regarding the preparations for the 2011 presidential and legislative elections, she stated that significant political progress had been achieved, including the adoption of legislation that would serve as the framework for the elections. While the elections would be a critical test for Liberia on its path to democratic stability, she stated that the National Elections Commission would need further support from the international community to organize the elections successfully. She further highlighted the efforts undertaken by the Government and UNMIL for the handover of security responsibilities, noting that the Government had taken ownership of the process and had recognized the need for early planning to strengthen institutions such as the police.¹⁶

On 16 March 2011, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who reported on the preparations for the presidential and legislative elections. She noted that voter registration had been concluded with no major security incidents or prohibitive logistical challenges, as UNMIL had provided targeted assistance and logistical support by airlifting registration materials to and from inaccessible locations. She stated that the political and security environment in Liberia had meanwhile become more complex, owing to the upcoming elections and the situation along Liberia's border with Côte d'Ivoire, which had seen a sharp increase in the number of refugees entering the country. In response, UNMIL and Government security forces had increased patrols, but ensuring coverage along the long and porous border was

¹⁶ S/PV.6379, pp. 2-5.

proving to be overwhelming, and highlighted gaps in the capacity of the security agencies.¹⁷

The Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission reported on his two visits to Liberia, and stressed the need for national reconciliation, beginning with resolving the numerous land disputes which had amplified the ill feelings that existed between the two principal communities in the country. In this regard, he expressed support for proposals to establish a historical commission as the first step towards the construction of a "national memory". He further underlined the fragility of the justice system, and called upon the Government to pursue measures to strengthen the functioning of the existing courts, as well as to consider the establishment of special courts to deal with serious economic crimes.¹⁸

The representative of Liberia emphasized that carrying out the upcoming elections successfully would test the country's commitment to democratic governance. She expressed concern over the influx of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire, and urged the international community to maintain a critical focus on the escalating humanitarian crisis, which could undermine stability in the entire West African subregion. She emphasized the urgent need for resources to enable the humanitarian community and the Government to prepare an effective response to the situation.¹⁹

On 13 September 2011, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who reported on the preparations being made for the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 10 October 2011. She stated that a national referendum to consider four proposed amendments to the Constitution, seen as a critical rehearsal for the elections, had been conducted successfully with the support of UNMIL without any serious security incidents. She stated that the role of UNMIL continued to be focused on coordinating international assistance and employing the Mission's good offices to ensure an environment conducive to peaceful elections. In the light of the increased challenges in the border area, UNMIL was also working closely with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen inter-mission cooperation, including increased coordination of border patrolling and information-

¹⁷ S/PV.6495, pp. 2-4.

¹⁸ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

¹⁹ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

sharing. Meanwhile, the planning for the handover of security responsibilities from UNMIL to the Government had continued, but the process had slowed because of the challenges related to the election and the developments concerning Côte d'Ivoire. She further emphasized the need to continue building the capacity of the security sector to allow for the actual handover.²⁰

The Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission reported on several new projects that would be financed in part by the Peacebuilding Fund, including the construction of five justice and security hubs. He noted, however, that securing the remainder of the funding remained a challenge, as the Liberian National Police, which was expected to take on the security responsibilities of UNMIL, suffered from a serious lack of resources. He called upon the international community to invest in the Liberian National Police more directly and urgently.²¹

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia recalled the major contributions made by UNMIL since its establishment in 2003, and emphasized that the partnership between UNMIL and the Government was vital for ensuring that the elections were free and fair, transparent and credible. Daunting challenges remained, including planning for the elections and addressing the border issues with Côte d'Ivoire, and an assessment mission early in 2012 would evaluate the Government's readiness and ability to use its own security capacity. He emphasized the need for an orderly and well-paced drawdown schedule for UNMIL.²²

**15 September 2010 and 16 September 2011:
extension of the mandate of UNMIL and debate
on the future drawdown**

On 15 September 2010, by resolution [1938 \(2010\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of UNMIL for one year, until 30 September 2011 and, inter alia, reiterated its mandate, namely, to assist the Government by providing logistical support, coordinating international electoral assistance and supporting Liberian institutions and political parties in creating an atmosphere conducive to the conduct of peaceful elections. The Council also endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections be a core benchmark for the future drawdown of UNMIL.

On 16 September 2011, by resolution [2008 \(2011\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of UNMIL for one year, until 30 September 2012 and, inter alia, reiterated its authorization to the Mission to continue to assist the Government with the 2011 presidential and legislative elections, by providing logistical support, coordinating international electoral assistance and supporting Liberian institutions and political parties in creating an atmosphere conducive to the conduct of peaceful elections.

In the discussion following the adoption of the resolution, the Council members welcomed the progress made by Liberia, especially in the preparations for the elections, and expressed support for the extension of the mandate of UNMIL. The representatives of France, Germany, Portugal and the United Kingdom expressed support for the recommendation of the Secretary-General for a review of the mandate, configuration and personnel by 30 May 2012, and noted that this had not been reflected in the resolution adopted.²³ The representative of the United Kingdom expressed his disappointment that the resolution did not take up amendments put forward by several Council members regarding the review. He emphasized his commitment to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping missions, and stated that no peacekeeping mission should be exempt from regular review by the Council.²⁴ The representative of the United States stated that she was not ready to predetermine the Council's actions on such an important matter as the drawdown of UNMIL, given the uncertain situation due to the upcoming elections and tensions in the region. Stressing that it was not the time to impose rigid timelines on UNMIL, she asserted that a drawdown must be determined by the facts on the ground, and not by any artificial deadlines.²⁵ The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia welcomed the extension of the mandate of UNMIL and acknowledged the significant contribution of the Mission in helping his country to address the many challenges it faced. He further pledged that the Government and people would continue the march forward towards ensuring sustainable peace and sustained development long after the withdrawal of UNMIL troops.²⁶

²⁰ [S/PV.6610](#), pp. 2-4.

²¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

²² *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

²³ [S/PV.6619](#), p. 2 (France); p. 3 (Germany, Portugal); and p. 4 (United Kingdom).

²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

**3 March 2011: withdrawal of UNMIL support
contingent from Sierra Leone**

On 3 March 2011, by resolution [1971 \(2011\)](#), the Council, inter alia, discontinued the authorization granted under resolution [1626 \(2005\)](#), and requested

that UNMIL withdraw, by 7 March 2011, the military personnel providing security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.²⁷

²⁷ For more information on the mandate of UNMIL, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

Meetings: the situation in Liberia

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6379 8 September 2010	Twenty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (S/2010/429)		Liberia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of UNMIL	All invitees	
6383 15 September 2010	Twenty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2010/429)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2010/475)	Liberia			Resolution 1938 (2010) 15-0-0
6454 17 December 2010		Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2010/643)				Resolution 1961 (2010) 15-0-0
6493 3 March 2011	Letter dated 11 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/74)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2011/106)	Sierra Leone			Resolution 1971 (2011) 15-0-0
6495 16 March 2011	Twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2011/72)		Liberia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6610 13 September 2011	Twenty-third progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2011/497)		Liberia (Minister for Foreign Affairs)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6619 16 September 2011	Twenty-third progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2011/497)	Draft resolution submitted by Gabon, India, Nigeria, South Africa, United States (S/2011/576)	Liberia (Minister for Foreign Affairs)		5 Council members (France, Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States), Liberia	Resolution 2008 (2011) 15-0-0
6684 14 December 2011		Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2011/769)	Liberia			Resolution 2025 (2011) 15-0-0

3. The situation in Somalia

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 28 meetings and adopted 11 resolutions and 4 presidential statements in connection with the situation in Somalia. The Council welcomed the steps taken by the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) to increase its presence in the country. In addition, the Council continued to act against the growing problem of piracy and armed robbery at sea by enhancing the legal framework for the prosecution of pirates. It also followed the progress in the implementation of the Djibouti Agreement of 19 August 2008 and the Kampala Accord of 9 June 2011. Finally, the Council continued to address the widespread humanitarian crisis in Somalia.

In May 2011, the Council visited Kenya to hold discussions on the future of Somalia as part of its mission to Africa.²⁸

The Council continued to assess the conditions for a possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation to take over from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council three times extended its authorization to the African Union to maintain the deployment of AMISOM.²⁹ The Council met twice to extend for 12 months each time the mandate of the Monitoring Group supporting the Committee established pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#).³⁰

²⁸ For more information on Security Council missions, see part I, sect. 36, and part VI, sect. II. A, with regard to investigation of disputes and fact-finding.

²⁹ Resolutions [1910 \(2010\)](#), [1964 \(2010\)](#) and [2010 \(2011\)](#).

³⁰ Resolutions [1916 \(2010\)](#) and [2002 \(2011\)](#). For more information on the Monitoring Group, see part IX, sect. I. B.1, with regard to the Committee pursuant to resolutions [751 \(1992\)](#) and [1907 \(2009\)](#).