

36. Security Council mission

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council completed four missions in which members of the Council visited the field. Destinations of the missions included several countries in Africa⁸²³ and Afghanistan. The missions consisted of representatives of all members of the Council. The Council held three meetings in connection with the item entitled “Security Council mission”, at which the heads of the missions briefed the Council on their findings in those countries. The Council heard a briefing on the mission to Afghanistan in connection with the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan”.⁸²⁴ Summaries of the briefings are presented by region.⁸²⁵

Briefings on Security Council missions

19 May 2010: Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 13 to 16 May 2010

On 19 May 2010, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “Briefing by the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo”. At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the representative of France and head of the mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He reported on the meetings held with the President and members of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Parliament and others, which confirmed that while the country had evolved over the past 10 years and progress had been made, the humanitarian and human rights situations in the country remained fragile, and security sector reform remained a key challenge. The mission had conveyed to the Congolese authorities the Council’s readiness to work with them to strengthen peace and stability in the country, to ensure the protection of civilians and allow for the reconfiguration of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).⁸²⁶

⁸²³ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

⁸²⁴ See [S/PV.6351](#).

⁸²⁵ For more information on the composition and reports of the missions, see part VI, sect. II, “Investigation of disputes and fact-finding”.

⁸²⁶ [S/PV.6317](#), pp. 2-3.

30 June 2010: Security Council mission to Afghanistan, 21 to 24 June 2010

On 30 June 2010, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan”. During the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the representative of Turkey and head of the mission to Afghanistan. He reported that members of the mission had met with the President of Afghanistan and his Cabinet as well as with members of the executive and legislative branches, and that the members of the mission had underlined, *inter alia*, the necessity of free and fair elections. The members of the mission had also encouraged the Afghan authorities to advance their efforts to promote, among other issues, the rule of law and human rights, and had highlighted the importance of combating the narcotics industry and trade.⁸²⁷

14 October 2010: Security Council mission to Africa, 4 to 10 October 2010

On 14 October 2010, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa”. The Council heard briefings by the representative of Uganda and head of the Uganda segment of the mission and the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom, leaders of the Sudan segment of the mission.

The representative of Uganda reported that the President of Uganda, in his meeting with the mission, had stated that it was imperative that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement be implemented fully and had stressed the importance of supporting the efforts of the parties towards peaceful, credible and timely referendums. The President also emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations on security issues, and called on the United Nations to support regional efforts in dealing with the Lord’s Resistance Army. Mission members also visited the Entebbe Support Base, where they were briefed on its operations in support of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Council members were informed that, in addition to MONUSCO, the base was supporting other African field missions and entities, including the African

⁸²⁷ [S/PV.6351](#), p. 6.

Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).⁸²⁸

The representative of the United States reported that in Juba, the mission had met with the President of Southern Sudan, who emphasized his concerns on such issues as the unresolved border demarcation and delay in preparations for the referendum in Abyei. The mission, which had also met with members of civil society and religious officials, had heard their concerns about the tight timetable for the referendum and the situation in Abyei. She reiterated the need for the Council to steadfastly support the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.⁸²⁹

The representative of the United Kingdom reported that in Darfur, the mission had met with the Joint Special Representative for UNAMID, who briefed the members of the mission on the work of UNAMID and the security situation in the region. The mission also visited the internally displaced persons camp in Abu Shouk, where mission members had met with representatives of the camp to gain a better understanding of their concerns regarding food, medical and other needs. He stated that the mission had returned with deep concerns regarding the security situation in Darfur and its impact on the plight of civilians. In Khartoum, the mission had met with the Vice-President of the Sudan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Chair of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and others. Both the Vice President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed the strong commitment by the Government of the Sudan to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, as well as to tackle key outstanding issues, including the situation in Abyei and the post-referendum arrangements on border demarcation, citizenship and wealth-sharing. On the issue of Darfur, the Vice President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had reiterated the Government's commitment to pursue peace and development in the region, but had also stressed the need for rebel groups to join the peace process immediately and without preconditions. The mission expressed its concern about the security situation in Darfur and the continuing restrictions on UNAMID and humanitarian workers. He noted that the mission had returned with a better understanding of the

urgency of the challenges facing the Sudan and the political will that would be required to meet them.⁸³⁰

6 June 2011: Security Council mission to Africa, 19 to 26 May 2011

On 6 June 2011, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa". During the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the representative of France and leader of the Ethiopia segment of the mission and the representative of the United States, leader of the Sudan segment of the mission, on behalf of the Russian Federation, which was also a leader of the Sudan segment. The representatives of the United Kingdom and South Africa, leaders of the Kenya segment, also briefed the Council.

The representative of France reported that in Addis Ababa, the mission had met with members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. The annual meeting with the Peace and Security Council had enabled the members of the mission to consider in detail issues concerning Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Somalia and the Sudan, with a view to establishing a common strategy that would allow the United Nations and the African Union to implement their actions more effectively. Members of the mission had also met with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia to discuss the situation in Somalia and the Sudan, as well as the issues of Eritrea and Libya.⁸³¹

The representative of the United States reported that in Khartoum, the members of the mission had met with the Minister of State for the Presidency and several other officials of the Government of the Sudan and had emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Abyei. They had also met with the Chair of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, who outlined his efforts to facilitate negotiations on outstanding issues concerning the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and post-referendum arrangements. In Juba, the mission had met with the President, Vice-President and ministers of the Government of South Sudan, and had reiterated its grave concern regarding events in Abyei, including the attack by the Sudan People's Liberation Army on a convoy of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) on 19 May.

⁸²⁸ S/PV.6397, pp. 2-3.

⁸²⁹ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

⁸³⁰ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

⁸³¹ S/PV.6546, pp. 2-3.

She stated that the mission had continuously stressed the importance of both parties fully implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement before South Sudan gained independence on 9 July 2011, especially in the light of the crisis in Abyei.⁸³²

The representative of the United Kingdom reported that in Nairobi the mission had met with the Transitional Federal President and other officials of the Transitional Federal Government and Parliament of Somalia, as well as the Presidents of Galmudug and Puntland and representatives of Somaliland. In its meeting with the Transitional Federal Institutions, the mission had expressed its grave concern regarding the impact that the discord between the Transitional Federal Institutions was having on the political process and the security situation, and had conveyed in very clear and strong terms the Council's expectation that the Government and Parliament would reach an agreement on the issue of elections rapidly. The Presidents of Galmudug and Puntland and the representatives of Somaliland all highlighted the progress made on security and development, but also stressed the threats that their people faced from piracy and terrorism. The mission recognized the need for the international community to support further stabilization, peacebuilding and socioeconomic reconstruction, as

⁸³² Ibid., pp. 3-5.

well as for a comprehensive response to tackle piracy and its underlying causes.⁸³³

The representative of South Africa reported on the meetings, also in Nairobi, with the Prime Minister and the Vice-President of Kenya, the African Union High Representative and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and others. In the meeting with the Vice President, he had expressed concern regarding terrorism, piracy and the lack of support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) from the international community and the Council. In the meeting with the Force Commander of AMISOM, members of the Security Council mission were briefed on the challenges faced by AMISOM, in particular the lack of equipment, logistical support, air and maritime support, and predictable financing. Reporting also on meetings held with the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, the representative of South Africa concluded that they needed a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the security, humanitarian and development challenges in Somalia.⁸³⁴

⁸³³ Ibid., p. 5.

⁸³⁴ Ibid., pp. 5-7.

Meetings: briefings on Security Council missions

A. Security Council mission

| <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Sub-item</i> | <i>Other documents</i> | <i>Speakers</i> |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| 6317 19 May 2010 | Briefing by the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (13 to 16 May 2010) | Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General containing the terms of reference of the mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2010/187 and Add.1) | France |
| 6397 14 October 2010 | Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa (4 to 10 October 2010) | Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General containing the terms of reference of the mission to Uganda and the Sudan (S/2010/509) | Uganda, United States, United Kingdom |
| 6546 6 June 2011 | Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa (19 to 26 May 2011) | Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General containing the terms of reference of the mission to Ethiopia, the Sudan and Kenya (S/2011/319) | France, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States |

B. The situation in Afghanistan

| <i>Meeting and date</i> | <i>Sub-item</i> | <i>Other documents</i> | <i>Rule 37 invitations</i> | <i>Rule 39 invitations</i> | <i>Speakers</i> |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 6351 30 June 2011 | Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 40 of resolution 1917 (2010) (S/2010/318) | Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General containing the terms of reference of the mission to Afghanistan (S/2010/325) | Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Pakistan | Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations | All Council members and all invitees |

37. The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security,” and adopted one presidential statement.

29 June 2010: adoption of a presidential statement

On 29 June 2010, the Council held an open debate on the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security. The speakers focused on the three main topics recommended by the President (Mexico) in his concept note:⁸³⁵ the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations; international justice and the peaceful settlement of disputes; and the efficiency and credibility of sanctions regimes.

The Deputy Secretary-General stated that the United Nations had a broad and ambitious agenda in the area of the rule of law. The debate in the Council was expanding from a focus on the rule of law in war-torn societies to include the strengthening of the rule of law at the international level as well. In that regard, she emphasized the special role of the International Court of Justice in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the importance of strengthening the Court’s relationship with the Council. She outlined several initiatives being undertaken within the United Nations system in the

area of the rule of law, including the creation of a deployable team of experts to assist national authorities, the establishment of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, which brought together the United Nations departments and agencies most engaged in rule of law activities. However, she noted that the Organization was also facing major challenges and constraints, including the need to recruit high-quality personnel, inadequate financial resources and a crowded and fragmented external environment, spanning the legal, development, security and political disciplines.⁸³⁶

The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations stated that establishing respect for the rule of law at the international level was essential not only to maintain peace, but also to enable sustained economic progress and development. She noted that the Charter of the United Nations had envisaged a system of settling disputes peacefully before conflicts arose, but that the links between the General Assembly, the Council and the International Court of Justice towards that goal had not been fully used to coordinate and complement their respective actions. In that regard, she encouraged the Council to follow up on the 2006 recommendation by

⁸³⁵ S/2010/322, annex.

⁸³⁶ S/PV.6347, pp. 2-4.