

*The Security Council,*

*Deeply disturbed* by the prevalence of incidents of hostage-taking and abduction, and the continued protracted incarceration of many of those held hostage,

*Considering* that the taking of hostages and abductions are offences of grave concern to all States and serious violations of international humanitarian law, having severe adverse consequences for the human rights of the victims and their families and for the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among States,

*Recalling* its resolutions 579 (1985) of 18 December 1985 and 618 (1988) of 29 July 1988 condemning all acts of hostage-taking and abduction,

*Bearing in mind* the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted on 17 December 1979, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted on 14 December 1973, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed on 23 September 1971, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed on 16 December 1970, and other relevant conventions,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* all acts of hostage-taking and abduction;

2. *Demands* the immediate safe release of all hostages and abducted persons, wherever and by whomever they are being held;

3. *Calls upon* all States to use their political influence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law to secure the safe release of all hostages and abducted persons and to prevent the commission of acts of hostage-taking and abduction;

4. *Expresses appreciation* for the efforts of the Secretary-General in seeking the release of all hostages and abducted persons and invites him to continue such efforts whenever so requested by a State;

5. *Appeals* to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and other relevant conventions;

6. *Urges* the further development of international cooperation among States in devising and adopting effective measures which are in accordance with the rules of international law to facilitate the prevention, prosecution and punishment of all acts of hostage-taking and abduction as manifestations of terrorism.

## 27. United Nations peacekeeping operations

### Initial proceedings

#### **Decision of 30 May 1990 (2924th meeting): statement by the President**

At its 2924th meeting, held on 30 May 1990 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included in its agenda the item entitled "United Nations peacekeeping operations".

After the adoption of the agenda, the President (Finland) stated that, following consultations among the members of the Council, he had been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:<sup>1</sup>

The members of the Council note with satisfaction that the United Nations has in recent years played an increasingly important and active role in restoring and maintaining international peace and security. The peacekeeping operations of the United Nations have become a valuable instrument

facilitating the settlement of international disputes. Recent successful peacekeeping operations have, for their part, contributed to the enhanced standing and effectiveness of the United Nations.

The members of the Council express their deep satisfaction with the growing support of the international community for United Nations peacekeeping and, in particular, with the participation of a growing number of Member States in the operations. They pay tribute to the Secretary-General and his staff for their tireless efforts in the conduct of those operations. They also commend States which have provided resources for such operations. Furthermore, they commend the peacekeeping forces for their exemplary and dedicated service in the cause of international peace and security.

The members of the Council consider it of vital importance that adequate resources are available for the preparation, deployment and maintenance of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. This must be underlined all the more in view of the new challenges in prospect. They urge Member States to respond positively and rapidly to requests from the Secretary-General for contributions of financial, human and

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<sup>1</sup> S/21323.

material resources for the operations. They emphasize that the operations must be launched and maintained on a sound and secure financial basis and stress the importance of full and timely payments of assessed contributions. At the same time, they underscore that the operations must be planned and conducted with maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The members of the Council also emphasize the importance of political support by all Member States, and in particular by the parties concerned, for United Nations peacekeeping and for the action of the Secretary-General in conducting the operations. They stress that a peacekeeping operation is essentially a temporary measure, intended to facilitate the resolution of conflicts and disputes. Its mandate is not automatically renewable. Peacekeeping should never be construed as a substitute for the ultimate goal: an early negotiated settlement. In the light of this, the members of the Council will continue to examine carefully the mandate of each operation and, when necessary, vary it in response to prevailing circumstances.

The members of the Council, while recognizing the principle that peacekeeping should only be undertaken with the consent of the host countries and the parties concerned, urge the host countries and all parties involved to assist and facilitate in every way the successful and safe deployment and functioning of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in order to enable the fulfilment of their mandates, including the early conclusion of status-of-forces agreements with the United Nations and the provision of appropriate infrastructure support.

The members of the Council are encouraged by recent achievements of United Nations peacekeeping. Bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Council under the Charter of the United Nations, they express their determination to continue to work jointly and in cooperation with the Secretary-General for the prevention and resolution of international conflicts. The members of the Council remain ready to consider launching new peacekeeping operations as and when necessary in the interest of international peace and security, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter.

## **28. The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security**

### **Decision of 31 January 1992 (3046th meeting): statement by the President**

On 31 January 1992, at its 3046th meeting, the Security Council met for the first time at the level of Heads of State and Government. The Council included in its agenda the item entitled “The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security”.

After the adoption of the agenda, the President of the Council (United Kingdom) made an introductory statement, in which he stated that the Council faced new challenges and should set a new course in tackling them. He observed that the presence of so many Heads of State or Government reflected the importance they all attached to the United Nations and their commitment to its ideals. He outlined four purposes for the meeting. First, the meeting marked a turning-point in the world and at the United Nations. On the international scene, they had witnessed the end of the cold war, presenting immense opportunities but also new risks. At the United Nations, there was an opportunity for Council members to give their full backing to the new Secretary-General in carrying out his mandate. Second, Council members should reaffirm their commitment to the principle of collective security, and to the resolution of disputes in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United

Nations. In that regard, they should send a clear signal that they intended to deal with threats to international peace and security through the United Nations and its Security Council. Third, Council members should consider anew the means by which collective security was upheld through the United Nations and consider how best to update and develop them. All the instruments at their disposal should be reviewed: preventive action, to avert crises; peacemaking, to restore peace through diplomacy; and peacekeeping, to reduce tensions and consolidate efforts to restore peace. In all of those endeavours, the role of the Secretary-General was, in his view, vital. Fourth, Council members should commit themselves anew to upholding international peace and security through reinforced measures of arms control. He considered that, in that sphere, the role of the United Nations — not just the Security Council, but the whole of the Organization — was an increasingly important one. He stressed further that, as they met to consider the specific responsibilities of the Security Council, the wider concerns of the international community were also in their minds. He observed that, without economic development and prosperity, lasting peace and stability would not be achieved. Equally, however, only when conditions of security and peace were