

# Highlights of Security Council Practice 2012

During 2012, the Security Council held 199 meetings, 175 consultations, adopting 53 resolutions, 29 presidential statements, 13 notes by the President and 78 press statements. The Council also sent missions to Timor-Leste, West Africa and Haiti.

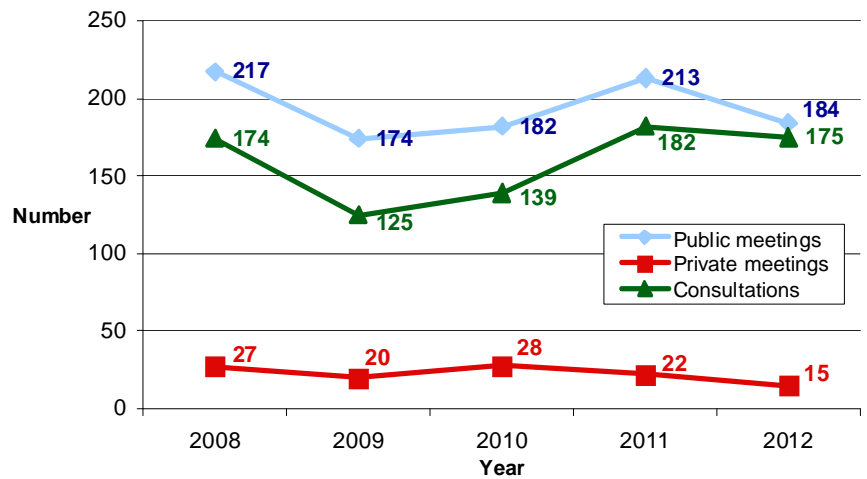
## Meetings and Agenda

Meetings of the Security Council are governed by Article 28 of the UN Charter, and rules 1-5 and 48 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. Under its current practice, the Council convenes meetings, which are classified as either public or private, as well as informal consultations of the whole (consultations).

### a) Meetings/Missions

#### Overview of meetings

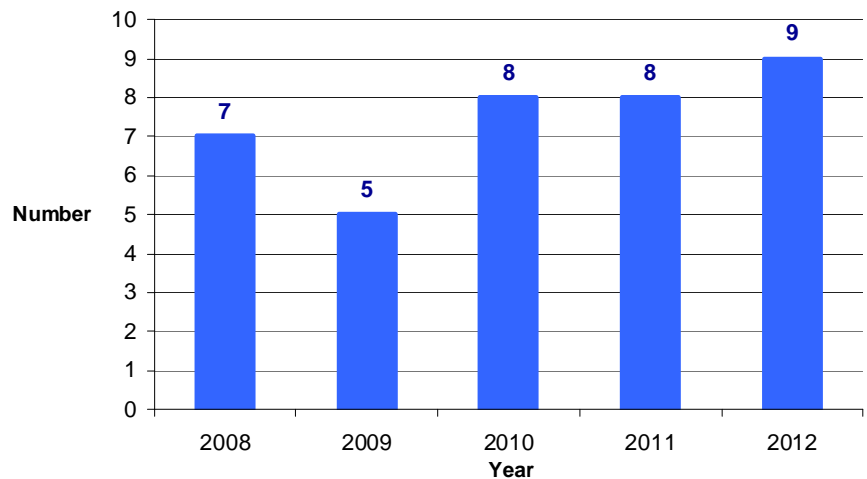
In 2012, the Security Council held **199** meetings. **184** were public meetings, and **15** were private meetings, of which **14** were meetings with police- and troop- contributing countries. The Council also held **175** consultations. Compared with 2011, the total number of meetings decreased by approximately **15%**, while the number of consultations decreased only by approximately **4%**.



[Chart 1] Number of meetings

#### High-level meetings

In 2012, the Council held **9** high-level meetings<sup>1</sup> during the course of the year. **4** of these dealt with the agenda item entitled "The situation in the Middle East". (For a complete list of high-level meetings see Annex, Table I)

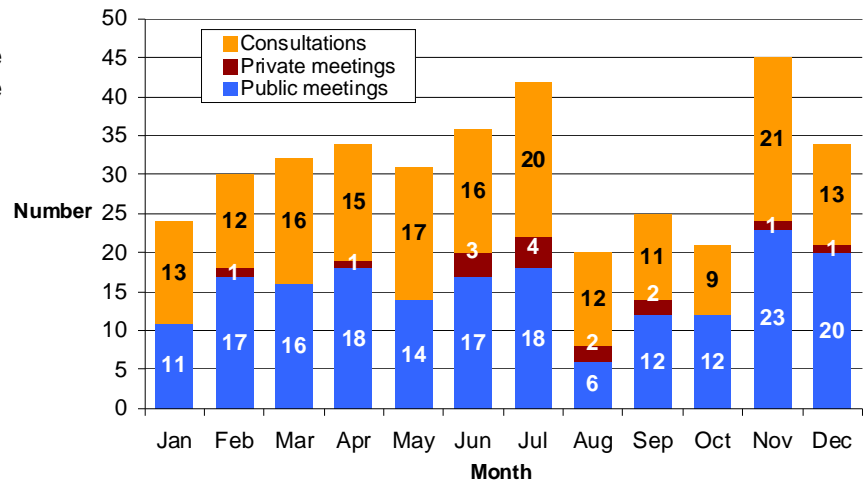


[Chart 2] Number of high-level meetings

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this document, meetings at which two or more Council members were represented at the ministerial level or above are described as high-level meetings.

## Meetings by month

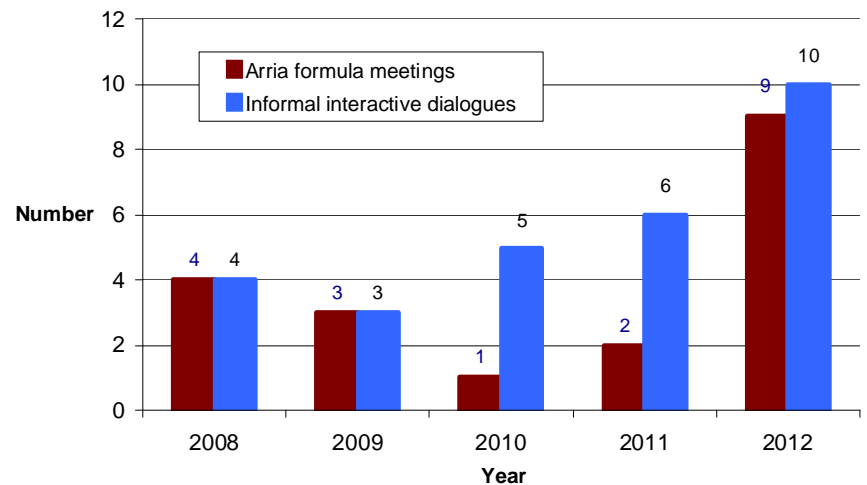
During 2012 the Security Council held between **8** and **24** public/private meetings, and **9** and **21** consultations per month. November was the busiest month, with **23** public meetings, **1** private meeting and **21** consultations.



[Chart 3] Meetings by month in 2012

## Arria formula meetings/ Informal interactive dialogues

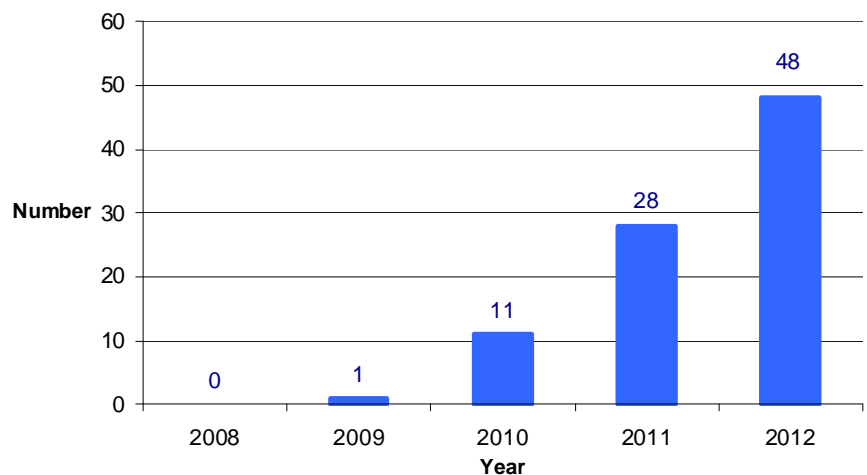
Arria formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues continued to allow Security Council members to exchange views with concerned States and third parties on situations and issues that concern them directly. In 2012, there were **8** Arria formula meetings and **10** informal interactive dialogues. (For a list of Arria formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues and, see Annex, Tables III and IV)



[Chart 4] Number of Arria formula meetings/informal interactive dialogues

## Video tele-conferencing

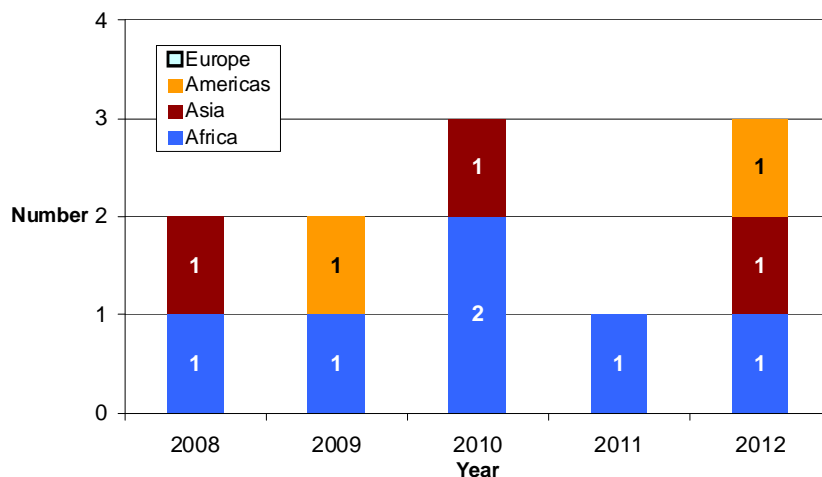
In 2012, the Council continued to utilize video tele-conferencing (VTC). VTC was used **48** times at meetings and consultations of the whole, to receive briefings by relevant briefers in field missions and senior officials on the ground.



[Chart 5] Use of video tele-conferencing

## Security Council missions

Missions consisting of members of the Security Council visiting the field have occurred since 1964. Since 2000, the Council has conducted missions to Africa on an annual basis. During 2012, the Council sent missions to Timor-Leste, West Africa and Haiti.



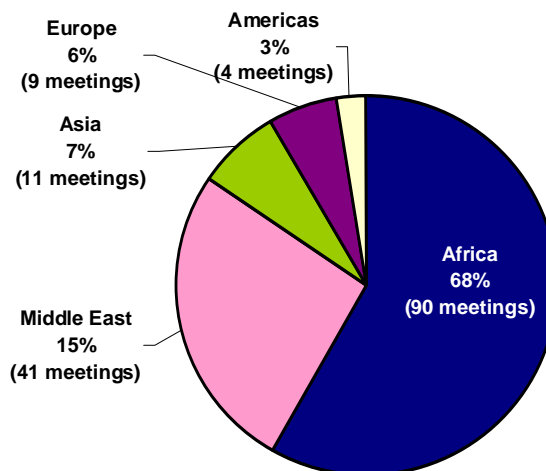
[Chart 6] Security Council missions

## b) Agenda

During 2012 the Security Council considered a total of **47** agenda items: **25** dealing with country-specific/regional situations and **22** with thematic and other issues (for details regarding agenda items see Annex, Table II). **1** new agenda item, “The situation in Mali”, was introduced on the Council’s agenda.

## Country-specific and regional situations

During 2012, over two-thirds of the meetings (**155** meetings out of 199 meetings) dealt with country-specific or regional situations. Among these meetings, Africa accounted for **68%** (90 meetings) of the meetings, followed by the Middle East (**15%**), Asia (**7%**), Europe (**6%**) and the Americas (**3%**).



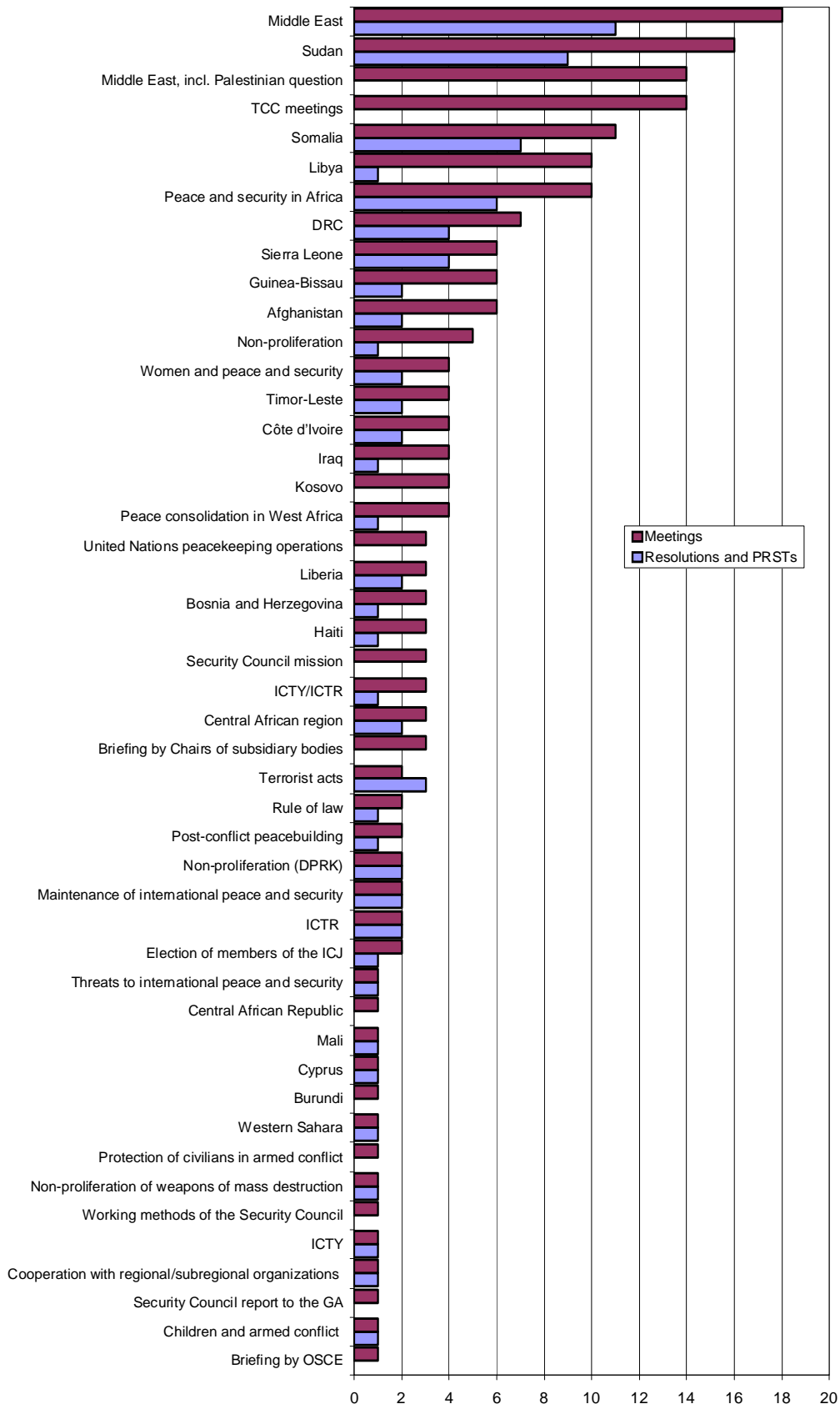
[Chart 7] Breakdown of meetings in 2012 on country-specific and regional situations

## Thematic issues

Out of a total of 199 meetings, **44** meetings considered thematic and other issues. Agenda items discussed include “Women and peace and security”, “United Nations peacekeeping operations”, “The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security”, and “Post-conflict peacebuilding”. On 26 November 2012, the Council held an open debate to consider the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507).

## Number of meetings by agenda item

In 2012, the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” accounted for the largest number of meetings and decisions (7 resolutions and 4 presidential statements).



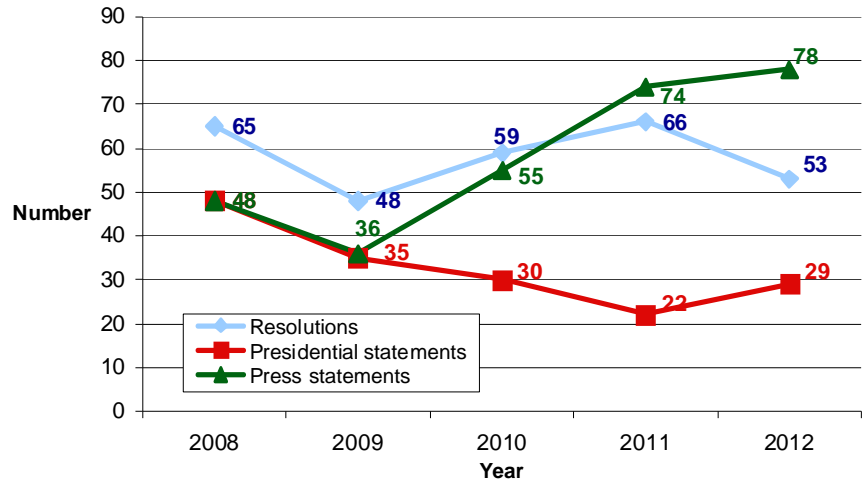
[Chart 8] Number of meetings and resolutions/PRSTs adopted by agenda item

# Decisions and Voting

Article 27 of the United Nations Charter and rule 40 of the provisional rules of procedure govern voting in the Security Council. While neither the Charter nor the provisional rules of procedure of the Council specifically cover decisions, they currently take the form of resolutions, presidential statements, notes by the President and letters. According to Article 27 each Council member has one vote, and an affirmative vote of nine members is required for decisions (other than those on procedural matters), including the concurrent votes of the permanent members

## Overview of decisions in 2012

In 2012, the Security Council adopted **53** resolutions and **29** presidential statements. The Council also adopted **13** notes by the President. Of these, 3 (S/2012/402, S/2012/922, S/2012/937) were adopted based on the work of the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions and dealt with the issue of the Council's working methods. The Council also issued **78** press statements.



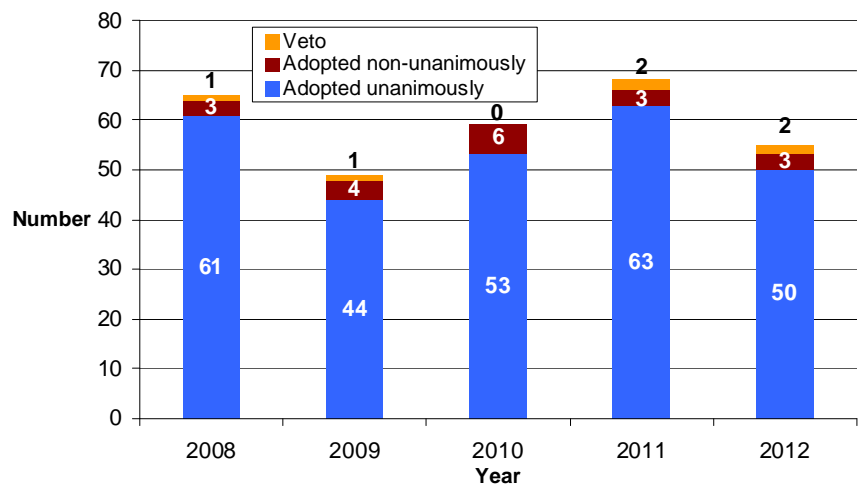
[Chart 9] Resolutions, presidential statements and press statements

## Resolutions under Chapter VII

Of the 53 resolutions adopted by the Council, **32** were adopted “acting under Chapter VII of the Charter”. Many of these concerned the mandates of United Nations and regional peacekeeping missions or multinational forces, and sanctions measures (For a list of resolutions adopted under Chapter VII see Annex, Table V).

## Voting

The Council continued to adopt the vast majority of its resolutions unanimously. Out of **53** resolutions, **50** were adopted unanimously. **2** draft resolutions concerning the Syrian Arab Republic (S/2012/77 and S/2012/538) were not adopted due to the negative vote of a permanent member.



[Chart 10] Voting on draft resolutions

# Subsidiary bodies

The powers of the Security Council to establish subsidiary organs is set out in Article 29 of the Charter and reflected in rule 28 of its provisional rules of procedure. These include: field-based missions such as peacekeeping missions, political and peacebuilding offices; sanctions committees; committees overseeing other Chapter VII measures; international tribunals; and working groups. In 2012, the Council established two new subsidiary organs: one observer mission and one sanctions committee.

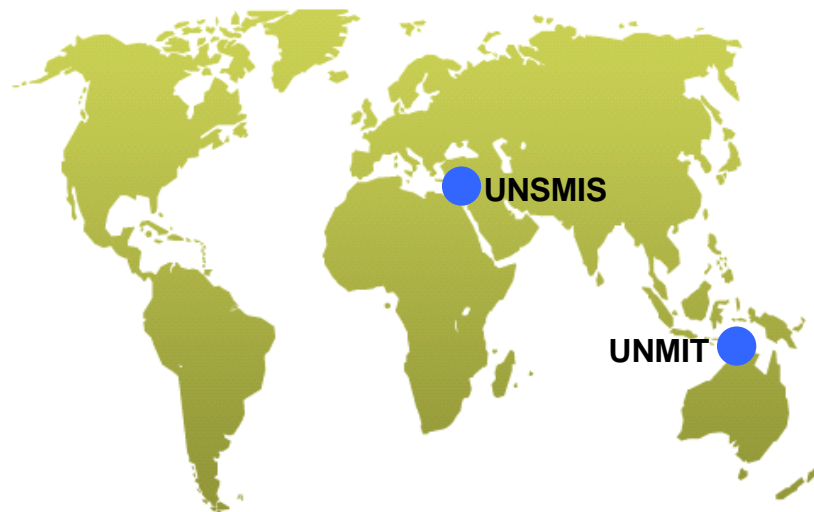
## a) Peacekeeping operations/Observer missions

### **UNSMIS (Syrian Arab Republic)**

The United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) was authorized by the Security Council on 21 April 2012 by resolution 2043 (2012), for an initial period of 90 days. The mandate of the Mission was to monitor a cessation of armed violence by all parties and support the implementation of the six-point proposal of the Joint Special Envoy for the UN and the League of Arab States. By resolution 2059 (2012) of 20 July 2012, the mandate of the Mission was renewed for a final period of 30 days.

### **UNMIT (Timor-Leste)**

The United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) was established by the Security Council on 25 August 2006 by resolution 1704 (2006), as a follow-on mission to the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL). Following the April 2012 presidential and parliamentary elections and the transfer of its responsibilities to the Government of Timor-Leste, UNMIT completed its mandate on 31 December 2012.



## b) Sanctions committees

### **2048 Committee concerning Guinea-Bissau**

By resolution 2048 (2012), the Council established a new sanctions committee to oversee the travel ban imposed against individuals associated with the coup d'état of 12 April 2012 in Guinea-Bissau.

# Annex

## I. High-level meetings in 2012

|   | Formal agenda item  | Date and meeting number  |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security | 12 January 2012 (6702)   |
| 2 | The situation in the Middle East  | 31 January 2012 (6710)   |
| 3 | Peace and security in Africa  | 21 February 2012 (6717)  |
| 4 | The situation in Libya  | 12 March 2012 (6733)     |
| 5 | The situation in the Middle East  | 12 March 2012 (6734)     |
| 6 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts  | 4 May 2012 (6765)        |
| 7 | The situation in the Middle East  | 30 August 2012 (6826)    |
| 8 | The situation in the Middle East  | 26 September 2012 (6841) |
| 9 | Peace and security in Africa  | 10 December 2012 (6882)  |

## II. Agenda items discussed at Council meetings (public and private) in 2012

|    | Country/region-specific agenda items  |   |
|----|---|---|
|    | <i>Formal agenda item</i>   | <i>Short description</i>                            |
| 1  | Central African region  | Central African region                              |
| 2  | Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B                        | TCC meetings  |
| 3  | Peace and security in Africa  | Peace and security in Africa                        |
| 4  | Peace consolidation in West Africa  | Peace consolidation in West Africa                  |
| 5  | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan   | Sudan   |
| 6  | Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)   | Kosovo  |
| 7  | The question concerning Haiti   | Haiti   |
| 8  | The situation concerning Iraq   | Iraq  |
| 9  | The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo   | DRC   |
| 10 | The situation concerning Western Sahara   | Western Sahara                                      |
| 11 | The situation in Afghanistan  | Afghanistan   |
| 12 | The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina   | Bosnia and Herzegovina                              |
| 13 | The situation in Burundi  | Burundi   |
| 14 | The situation in Côte d'Ivoire  | Côte d'Ivoire                                       |
| 15 | The situation in Cyprus   | Cyprus  |
| 16 | The situation in Guinea-Bissau  | Guinea-Bissau                                       |
| 17 | The situation in Liberia  | Liberia   |
| 18 | The situation in Libya  | Libya   |
| 19 | The situation in Mali   | Mali  |
| 20 | The situation in Sierra Leone   | Sierra Leone  |
| 21 | The situation in Somalia  | Somalia   |
| 22 | The situation in the Central African Republic   | Central African Republic                            |
| 23 | The situation in the Middle East  | Middle East   |
| 24 | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question  | Middle East, incl. Palestinian question             |
| 25 | The situation in Timor-Leste  | Timor-Leste   |
|    | Thematic and other agenda items   |   |
|    | <i>Formal agenda item</i>   | <i>Short description</i>                            |
| 1  | Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe  | Briefing by OSCE                                    |
| 2  | Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council  | Briefing by Chairs of subsidiary bodies             |
| 3  | Children and armed conflict   | Children and armed conflict                         |
| 4  | Consideration of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly   | Security Council report to the GA                   |
| 5  | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security                                       | Cooperation with regional/subregional organizations |
| 6  | Election of members of the International Court of Justice   | Election of members of the ICJ                      |
| 7  | International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the | ICTR  |

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
|    | Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994  |  |
| 8  | International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991  | ICTY   |
| 9  | International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991<br><br>International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994 | ICTY/ICTR  |
| 10 | Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)   | Working methods of the Security Council                              |
| 11 | Maintenance of international peace and security  | Maintenance of international peace and security                      |
| 12 | Non-proliferation  | Non-proliferation  |
| 13 | Non-proliferation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)  | Non-proliferation (DPRK)   |
| 14 | Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction   | Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction                     |
| 15 | Post-conflict peacebuilding  | Post-conflict peacebuilding  |
| 16 | Protection of civilians in armed conflict  | Protection of civilians in armed conflict                            |
| 17 | Security Council mission   | Security Council mission   |
| 18 | The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security  | Rule of law  |
| 19 | Threats to international peace and security  | Threats to international peace and security                          |
| 20 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts   | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts |
| 21 | United Nations peacekeeping operations   | United Nations peacekeeping operations                               |
| 22 | Women and peace and security   | Women and peace and security   |

### III. Arria formula meetings in 2012

|   | Topic  | Date            |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | United Nations peacekeeping operations                             | 7 February 2012 |
| 2 | Women and peace and security                                       | 8 March 2012    |
| 3 | Middle East  | 22 March 2012   |
| 4 | Democratic Republic of the Congo                                   | 20 April 2012   |
| 5 | Women and peace and security                                       | 18 May 2012     |
| 6 | Peaceful settlement of dispute, conflict prevention and resolution | 30 May 2012     |
| 7 | Great Lakes region   | 22 June 2012    |
| 8 | Middle East  | 12 October 2012 |
| 9 | Children and armed conflict  | 4 December 2012 |

### IV. Informal interactive dialogues in 2012

|   | Topic   | Date             |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1 | Sudan and South Sudan   | 27 February 2012 |
| 2 | Guinea-Bissau   | 7 May 2012       |
| 3 | Guinea-Bissau   | 5 June 2012      |
| 4 | Middle East   | 7 June 2012      |
| 5 | Joint meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council | 13 June 2012     |
| 6 | Mali  | 15 June 2012     |
| 7 | Sudan and South Sudan   | 9 August 2012    |
| 8 | Democratic Republic of the Congo                                | 29 August 2012   |



|    |                                  |                  |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 9  | Democratic Republic of the Congo | 29 August 2012   |
| 10 | Afghanistan                      | 26 November 2012 |

## V. Chapter VII resolutions adopted in 2012

|    | Resolution  | Date              | Agenda (short description)       | Theme                   |
|----|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | 2035 (2012) | 17 February 2012  | Sudan                            | Sanctions               |
| 2  | 2036 (2012) | 22 February 2012  | Somalia                          | Regional PKO            |
| 3  | 2040 (2012) | 12 March 2012     | Libya                            | SPM<br>Sanctions        |
| 4  | 2045 (2012) | 26 April 2012     | Cote d'Ivoire                    | Sanctions               |
| 5  | 2046 (2012) | 2 May 2012        | Sudan                            | Provisional measures    |
| 6  | 2047 (2012) | 17 May 2012       | Sudan                            | UN PKO                  |
| 7  | 2048 (2012) | 18 May 2012       | Guinea-Bissau                    | Sanctions               |
| 8  | 2049 (2012) | 7 June 2012       | Non-proliferation                | Sanctions               |
| 9  | 2050 (2012) | 12 June 2012      | Non-proliferation (DPRK)         | Sanctions               |
| 10 | 2053 (2012) | 27 June 2012      | Democratic Republic of the Congo | UN PKO                  |
| 11 | 2054 (2012) | 29 June 2012      | ICTR                             | International tribunals |
| 12 | 2056 (2012) | 5 July 2012       | Peace and security in Africa     | Provisional measures    |
| 13 | 2057 (2012) | 5 July 2012       | Sudan                            | UN PKO                  |
| 14 | 2060 (2012) | 25 July 2012      | Somalia                          | Sanctions               |
| 15 | 2062 (2012) | 26 July 2012      | Côte d'Ivoire                    | UN PKO                  |
| 16 | 2066 (2012) | 17 September 2012 | Liberia                          | UN PKO                  |
| 17 | 2069 (2012) | 9 October 2012    | Afghanistan                      | Multinational forces    |
| 18 | 2070 (2012) | 12 October 2012   | Haiti                            | UN PKO                  |
| 19 | 2071 (2012) | 12 October 2012   | Peace and security in Africa     | Provisional measures    |
| 20 | 2072 (2012) | 31 October 2012   | Somalia                          | Regional PKO            |
| 21 | 2073 (2012) | 7 November 2012   | Somalia                          | Regional PKO            |
| 22 | 2074 (2012) | 14 November 2012  | Bosnia and Herzegovina           | Regional PKO            |
| 23 | 2075 (2012) | 16 November 2012  | Sudan                            | UN PKO                  |
| 24 | 2076 (2012) | 20 November 2012  | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Provisional measures    |
| 25 | 2077 (2012) | 21 November 2012  | Somalia                          | Piracy                  |
| 26 | 2078 (2012) | 28 November 2012  | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Sanctions               |
| 27 | 2079 (2012) | 12 December 2012  | Liberia                          | Sanctions               |
| 28 | 2080 (2012) | 12 December 2012  | ICTR                             | International tribunals |
| 29 | 2081 (2012) | 17 December 2012  | ICTY                             | International tribunals |
| 30 | 2082 (2012) | 17 December 2012  | Terrorist acts                   | Sanctions               |
| 31 | 2083 (2012) | 17 December 2012  | Terrorist acts                   | Sanctions               |
| 32 | 2085 (2012) | 20 December 2012  | Mali                             | Regional PKO            |

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