

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 29 August 2012 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China in June 2012 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Li Baodong
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2012 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (June 2012)

Introduction

Under the presidency of China in June 2012, the Security Council went through an intensive programme of work. The Council considered a wide range of agenda items ranging from Africa-related issues (Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Sudan and South Sudan) to Asia-related issues (Middle East, Yemen, Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, Myanmar). The Council also considered thematic issues such as non-proliferation, peacekeeping operations, protection of civilians in armed conflict, counter-terrorism and the international tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The sixth annual consultative meeting of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union was held this month. The Council also held several informal interactive dialogues with representatives of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the League of Arab States on situations in Guinea-Bissau, Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In the month of June, the Council held 17 public meetings, 3 private meetings and 16 informal consultations. The Council adopted seven resolutions and issued one presidential statement and seven statements to the press.

Africa

Central African Republic

On 6 June, the Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), Margaret Vogt, on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of BINUCA in that country. The Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations, Ambassador Charles-Armel Doubane, also made a statement. The briefing was followed by closed consultations, during which Council members exchanged views.

After the meetings, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press, in which members of the Council urged the Government of the Central African Republic to continue political dialogue in an inclusive manner, and encouraged the Government to extend the presence of the administration and security forces throughout the country.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 11 June, the Council was briefed in informal consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, and, through

videoconference, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Albert Gerard Koenders, on the situation in the country following the attack by armed elements on a UNOCI patrol in south-western Côte d'Ivoire on 8 June 2012, in which seven peacekeepers were killed.

The Council issued a statement to the press, in which the members condemned in the strongest terms the attack by armed elements on UNOCI, and called on the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to work with all relevant parties to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 12 June, the Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Roger Meece, on the situation in the country. Noting that the M23 mutiny threatened a general destabilization of the Kivus and the region and dramatically increased the general threat to millions of civilians, the Special Representative said that MONUSCO had deployed forces and stepped up operations throughout the affected area, but its resources had been stretched to the limit. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also made a statement.

The open meeting was followed by closed consultations, during which members of the Council exchanged views on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the extension of the mandate of MONUSCO.

On 15 June, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which members of the Council strongly condemned the mutiny of officers and soldiers. They supported the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to demobilize armed groups, to discourage further defection and to arrest and bring to justice alleged human rights abusers. They called upon all the countries in the region to actively cooperate with the Congolese authorities in demobilizing the M23 and all other armed groups and preventing them from receiving outside support.

On 26 June, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, and by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004), Agshin Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan).

Members of the Council expressed their concern over the deteriorating situation in the eastern region of the country. Noting the recent tension between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, they called upon the two countries to strengthen dialogue and restore cooperation.

On 27 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2053 (2012), by which it extended the mandate of MONUSCO until 30 June 2013.

Guinea-Bissau

On 5 June, the Council was briefed in informal consultations on the situation in Guinea-Bissau by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, who reported on the main developments in Guinea-Bissau subsequent to the adoption of resolution 2048 (2012) on 18 May 2012. He stressed

the need for the international community to ensure a coordinated response and find a consensual and sustainable solution to the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau.

On 20 June, the Council held closed consultations and heard the first briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012), Ambassador Mohammed Loulichki (Morocco), on the work of the Committee. He expressed his intention to hold the first informal consultation of the Committee in the coming weeks.

Liberia

On 29 June, the Council was briefed in informal consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003), Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haroon (Pakistan).

The Assistant Secretary-General briefed the Council about the situation in Liberia and presented the special report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/230) recommending the gradual reconfiguration of the United Nations Mission in Liberia. He said progress had been made, but stability in Liberia remained fragile, especially along its border with Côte d'Ivoire. The Chair of the Committee briefed the Council about the work of the Liberia sanctions Committee, including his visit to Liberia (13-18 May), and he recommended the lifting of targeted sanctions against Liberia while keeping in place the arms embargo on non-State actors. Members generally expressed their support for the Secretary-General's recommendations, as well as their readiness to discuss the sanctions measures against Liberia, and appreciated the work of the Committee.

Libya

On 15 June, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press, in which the Council expressed serious concern about the detention in Libya of several staff members of the International Criminal Court since 7 June 2012, and urged Libyan authorities at all levels and all concerned to work towards the immediate release of all the staff members. The members of the Council emphasized that it was the legal obligation of Libya under resolution 1970 (2011) to cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the Court.

Lord's Resistance Army/United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

On 29 June, the Council was briefed at an open meeting on the situation of the Central African region and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Abou Moussa, and by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the LRA issue, Francisco Caetano José Madeira. A representative of the Central African Republic also participated in the meeting. Both envoys presented to the Council the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of LRA and the African Union-led regional cooperation initiative against LRA, and called for concrete support from the international community.

Members of the Council commended the effort made by Central African States and international organizations, in particular the United Nations and the African

Union, for the stabilization and development of the region and in combating LRA, and their close cooperation. They strongly condemned the atrocities committed by LRA and encouraged further defection. Most members expressed their support to the regional strategy and initiative developed by the United Nations and the African Union. Some members expressed their concerns about the spillover effect of the Libya crisis to this region.

After the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/18), in which it strongly condemned the ongoing attacks carried out by LRA in parts of Central Africa, welcomed the development of the United Nations regional strategy, and called on the international community to provide assistance as possible to advance the goals identified by the strategy.

Mali

On 18 June, the Council issued a statement to the press on the situation in Mali, in which Council members encouraged a political settlement of the crisis and reiterated their full support for the mediation efforts being undertaken by ECOWAS. They took note of the request of ECOWAS and the African Union for a Security Council mandate authorizing the deployment of an ECOWAS stabilization force, and expressed their readiness to further examine the request of ECOWAS once additional information had been provided.

Sudan/South Sudan

On 5 June, the Council was briefed at a public meeting by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, on his fifteenth report to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005). The Permanent Representative of the Sudan, Ambassador Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman, also made a statement. The Council members exchanged views on this issue.

On 14 June, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012) and the African Union road map by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Council members issued a statement to the press on 18 June on this issue, in which they commended the fact that some progress had been made by both parties in implementing the requirements of resolution 2046 (2012), expressed their strong concern about delays and stressed that important elements of the resolution remained unresolved by both parties.

On 18 June, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Lieutenant General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, on the situation in Abyei and the work of UNISFA. Council members emphasized the need for both parties to implement their obligations in Abyei in accordance with the African Union road map and resolution 2046 (2012). They also commended the work of UNISFA under the leadership of Lieutenant General Tesfay.

On 21 June, in closed consultations, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, Ambassador Néstor Osorio (Colombia), presented the 90-day report on the work of the Committee.

On 28 June, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on the humanitarian situation in the Sudan, especially in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, on the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012) and the African Union road map, and by the Deputy Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Philippe Lazzarini. Members of the Council reiterated that the Sudan and South Sudan should continue to implement resolution 2046 (2012) and the African Union road map and cooperate fully with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel in this regard.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 27 June, the Council held a debate on the situation in Afghanistan. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, briefed the Council on recent developments in Afghanistan. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Ambassador Zahir Tanin, also made a statement.

The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the clear message of support from the international community to the Government of Afghanistan through a series of international conferences and observed that the transition would not translate into an abandonment of Afghanistan. He noted a dramatic decline in the number of security incidents, compared to 2011, in the past three months. He emphasized the crucial role of the United Nations in Afghanistan and declared that the United Nations would commit itself to supporting the Government and people of Afghanistan for the long term.

Members of the Council, as well as other delegations participating in the meeting, welcomed the coordinating role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. They welcomed the progress that had been made in the peace and reconstruction process in Afghanistan, stressed that efforts should be focused on maintaining security, promoting political and economic development and advancing regional relations. Attention was also drawn to the need for enhancing counter-narcotics efforts. Some delegations also encouraged the international community to continue supporting the Government and people of Afghanistan. Some countries also expressed their concern about the security situation in Afghanistan and the increase in conflict-related casualties.

Iraq and Kuwait

On 19 June, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on developments regarding the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains, as well as the return of all Kuwaiti property, including archives seized by Iraq, by the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator, Gennady Tarasov. He expressed appreciation for the increased cooperation in place between the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, as well as proactive efforts on the part of Iraq with regard to the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and Kuwaiti property.

Members of the Council welcomed the continued cooperation between the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, and expressed their support for the extension of the financing of the activities of the High-level Coordinator for a further period of six months.

On 20 June, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council expressed their support for the extension of the financing of the activities of the High-level Coordinator for a further period of six months, and further supported the Secretary-General's opinion that both sides should begin exploring other arrangements to consolidate and ensure continued cooperation in the search for missing persons and property, including the national archives, so that the Security Council will, in the near future, be in a position to consider other modalities to continue reporting on the search.

Myanmar

On 20 June, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on the situation in Myanmar by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Myanmar, Vijay Nambiar. He updated Council members on his recent visit to Myanmar to attend the launching of the Peace Donor Support Group, as well as the peacebuilding process in Myanmar and the recent developments in Rakhine State. He said that the response of the Government of Myanmar to the flare-up in Rakhine State had been prompt, firm and sensitive. The Special Adviser was concerned about the possible impact of the situation in Rakhine State on the reform process, as well as on the humanitarian situation on the ground.

Members of the Council welcomed the process of national reconciliation and reform started in 2011 in Myanmar. They hoped that the Government of Myanmar would carry the process forward. They encouraged the United Nations to continue to play an important role in this regard. Some members emphasized the need to lift completely sanctions against Myanmar.

Middle East

On 7 June, the Council held closed consultations and was briefed on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic by the Secretary-General and the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria, Kofi Annan.

The Secretary-General introduced the work of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (UNSMIS), emphasizing that the Annan plan remained at the centre of all efforts, and the international community should continue to support it. The Secretary-General would welcome a broader international discussion on the way forward. For his part, the Joint Special Envoy regretted the lack of implementation of his six-point plan, called on the Council to take urgent actions to ensure the implementation of the plan in full, and warned of the negative consequences that individual initiatives could bring to the Syrian people. He welcomed ongoing efforts to find common purpose within the international community and encouraged those consultations to yield real results soon.

Members of the Council reiterated their full support for the efforts made by the Joint Special Envoy and his six-point plan. They urged all parties in the Syrian Arab

Republic to fully implement the six-point plan and Security Council resolutions 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012), in particular to immediately cease all violence. They also expressed their appreciation for the work done by UNSMIS and voiced their commitment to continue supporting the Mission.

The question of Palestine's invitation to the Security Council to undertake a mission to the region was considered under "Other matters" in closed consultations on 11 and 29 June.

On 12 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2051 (2012), in which it expressed support for the efforts of President Hadi and the Government of National Unity of Yemen to move the transition process forward, and encouraged the international community to provide active and increasing support to help the Government of Yemen to meet the forthcoming political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges. The Council also demanded the cessation of all actions aimed at undermining the Government of National Unity and the political transition, and expressed its readiness to consider further measures, including under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, if such actions continued.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the Permanent Representative of Yemen, Ambassador Jamal Abdullah Al-Sallal, made a statement welcoming the resolution on behalf of his Government.

On 19 June, during an open briefing on recent developments in the Middle East, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, stressed that sporadic clashes, military operations and announcements of settlement construction in the West Bank by Israel were challenging the positive environment created by recent fragile forward steps in the Israeli-Palestinian talks. He noted that Quartet envoys, after meeting in Brussels on 15 June, agreed that there was an urgent need for the parties to continue to pursue the current efforts towards resumed dialogue and substantive negotiations and that it was time for them to take the necessary steps towards that goal. He also reassured the Council that the Secretary-General, together with the Quartet, would stress the need to renew dialogue and make real progress towards the two-State solution. He emphasized that only a direct and meaningful dialogue can help restore belief in a negotiated peace.

Turning to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Assistant Secretary-General said achieving a full and sustained cessation of violence and seeking a peaceful resolution of the crisis was at the centre of United Nations efforts. On the situation in Lebanon, he said that the country continued to face challenges to its security and stability, in part because of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic.

During closed consultations that followed, members of the Council stressed the importance of resuming Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and encouraged both sides to keep direct contact so as to maintain the positive momentum for the resumed dialogue and negotiations. Some members condemned unilateral actions, in particular the construction of settlements in occupied Palestinian territories. Some members stressed the urgency of reaching comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and called for vigorous diplomatic action to attain lasting peace in the region based on an enduring commitment by the two parties to mutual recognition, the two-State solution, and building upon previous agreements and obligations. Some members emphasized the United Nations role in the Quartet to support the parties in their efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Several members also reiterated their support for a visit by the Security Council to the Middle East.

On 19 June, the Council was briefed during closed consultations on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and recent activities of UNSMIS by the Head of the Mission, Major General Robert Mood, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

The Head of the Mission stressed that violence had spread and progressively intensified across the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Government as well as the armed opposition were pursuing their objectives through military means. The increase in violence in the country rendered it impossible for UNSMIS to fulfil its mandate safely. There was a lack of willingness by all parties in the country to seek a peaceful transition, thus creating risks for the UNSMIS observers. The instability in the Syrian Arab Republic had made the ability of UNSMIS to carry out its mandated tasks to observe, verify and report minimal. The Head of the Mission explained his decision to halt all UNSMIS mandated functions on 15 June, taking into consideration the escalation of violence on the ground. He emphasized that the halt was under daily review and that to return to normal operations remained the objective. The Under-Secretary-General further explained the decision to halt UNSMIS functions. While stressing that the lack of will of any party in the Syrian Arab Republic to lay down arms and move towards a cessation of all violence had limited the ability of UNSMIS to carry out its mandate, he affirmed that the goal of UNSMIS was to maintain the integrity of the Mission and the mandate given by the Council.

Members of the Council commended the efforts of UNSMIS to carry out its mandate under dangerous and difficult circumstances. They noted the decision of UNSMIS to halt all its activities, and further noted that the halt would be reviewed on a daily basis, with an objective of returning to normal operations. They urged all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure the safety of UNSMIS and fully cooperate with the Mission. They also reiterated their call to all parties in the country to implement the six-point plan in its entirety, as well as relevant resolutions of the Council.

On 21 June, the Council was briefed in informal consultations on the operational activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. He noted that the ceasefire in the Israel-Syria sector was observed while the situation in the UNDOF area of operation remained generally quiet. He also briefed the Council on some security incidents that had occurred in the areas of separation and limitation, which were in violation of the disengagement agreement. He emphasized that the events elsewhere in the Syrian Arab Republic had started to manifest themselves in the UNDOF area of operation, and expressed the hope that the Council would extend the Force's mandate as the Secretary-General had recommended.

Members of the Council underlined the stabilizing role of UNDOF, and called on the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation. The Council members expressed support for a further six-month renewal of the UNDOF mandate, as suggested by the Secretary-General.

On 26 June, the Council was briefed in closed consultations on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and, through video conference, the Deputy Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria, Nasser al-Kidwa.

The Under-Secretary-General noted that, while the ongoing violence continued to prevent UNSMIS from carrying out its mandated tasks, the Mission was still observing ongoing military operations in and around the four team sites where the Mission regrouped and assessing the humanitarian situation in collaboration with other relevant organizations and agencies. The Deputy Joint Special Envoy expressed his regret about the intensifying violence as well as the growing number of civilian casualties on the ground. While commending the efforts of UNSMIS, he emphasized that the key to unlocking the crisis was international unity. In this regard, the Joint Special Envoy intended to convene in Geneva a ministerial meeting of the Action Group for Syria. The Deputy Joint Special Envoy briefed that Council about preparations under way for that meeting.

Members of the Council expressed serious concerns about the current situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. They stressed the urgency of cessation of violence and implementation of the six-point plan in its entirety, as well as the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the Council, which was obligatory for all parties in the country. They expressed concerns regarding the inability of UNSMIS to resume its normal operations and urged all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with UNSMIS. They also reaffirmed their firm and full support to the mediation efforts of the Joint Special Envoy, including his initiative for an Action Group for Syria.

On 27 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2052 (2012), by which it renewed the mandate of UNDOF until 31 December 2012.

Thematic and general issues

Counter-terrorism

On 28 June, the Council was briefed by the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri (India), and the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Mike Smith, on the work of the Committee and the Executive Directorate.

The Committee Chair briefed the Council about the recent work done by the Committee, including special meetings held in Strasbourg and New York in 2011, as well as the efforts to revise the format of preliminary implementation assessments. The Executive Director briefed the Council on the activities and achievements of the Directorate during 2011 and 2012. The Directorate had paid visits to the Member States, facilitated technical assistance among Member States, carried out a global survey of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and engaged with international, regional and subregional organizations, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and other United Nations counter-terrorism bodies.

Members of the Council commended the leadership role of Ambassador Puri, as well as the work of the Committee and the Directorate. They encouraged those bodies to continue their work in the spirit of resolution 1963 (2010).

International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia

On 7 June, the Council held a debate to hear briefings by the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judge Theodor Meron, and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Vagn Joensen. They highlighted great strides in completing their work and ensuring a transfer of remaining tasks to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, but cautioned that appeals processes, staff attrition due to the wind-down of the Tribunals and the cases of outstanding fugitives arrested or still at large threatened the successful completion of their work. Particularly in regard to the International Tribunal for Rwanda, President Joensen stressed the difficulties in identifying countries willing to host acquitted persons and convicted persons who had served their sentence. The Council also heard a briefing by the Prosecutors of the two Tribunals. The Prosecutor of the Residual Mechanism, Hassan Bubacar Jallow, thanked those who had supported his appointment, and he agreed that, while much progress had been made, appeals litigation over referral of cases to Rwanda had become a significant concern of his Office. The Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Serge Brammertz, affirmed the heavy workload of appeals cases and highlighted the importance of the *Mladić* and *Karadžić* cases. Among concerned States taking the floor were representatives of Croatia, Rwanda and Serbia.

Members of the Council welcomed the efforts by the Tribunals in fulfilling their mandates, outlined the importance of the completing of the Tribunals' work in a timely manner in accordance with resolution 1966 (2010), noted with appreciation the cooperation of respective States with the Tribunals, and expressed their readiness to render necessary assistance to the work of the two Tribunals.

On 29 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2054 (2012), by which it extended the terms of office of three judges of the Trial Chamber of the International Tribunal for Rwanda until 31 December 2012 or until the completion of the *Ngirabatware* case, and extended the term of office of the President of that Tribunal until 31 December 2014, expressing its intention to review this decision in June 2013.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

On 29 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2055 (2012), emphasizing the increased workload of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and increasing the size of the Group of Experts of the Committee to up to nine experts.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 12 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2050 (2012), by which it extended until 12 July 2013 the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1874 (2009).

Non-proliferation/Islamic Republic of Iran

On 7 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2049 (2012), by which it extended until 9 July 2013 the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010).

On 12 June, the Council held an open meeting and heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Ambassador Néstor Osorio (Colombia), on the work of the Committee from 21 March to 11 June 2012. Members of the Council commended the efforts of the Committee and its Panel of Experts in carrying out the Committee's mandate. States expressed concern about developments of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as reported by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. States expressed their desire to find a comprehensive and long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Some States stressed their commitment to a dual-track approach, which includes both pressure and diplomatic engagement. Most States expressed the hope that the issue will be resolved through current dialogue and negotiations. They also welcomed the extension of the Panel of Experts' mandate and exchanged views on the Panel's work and its final report.

Peacekeeping operations

On 20 June, the Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Force Commanders of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations also gave a briefing.

The Force Commanders shared their views and experience on the issues relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Lieutenant General Chander Prakash, of MONUSCO, stated that the peacekeeping environment was becoming increasingly complex, and the protection of civilians required peacekeeping forces to be agile, and to operate in difficult terrain under risky and demanding situations. He urged that troop contingents receive realistic and mission-specific predeployment training. Major General Paolo Serra, of UNIFIL, emphasized that Security Council resolutions could be effective only if the political will of the parties involved was translated into action. Major General Moses Bisong Obi, of UNMISS, recounted his experience of facing the dissatisfaction of local people when the mission stuck to its mandate and how the mission dealt with it. Major General Fernando Rodrigues Goulart, of MINUSTAH, recalled that the contribution of the mission's military component was primarily related to the promotion of security and stability, protection of civilians and response to disasters, and the strengthening of the host country's relevant institutions.

Members of the Council expressed their support for United Nations peacekeeping operations and paid tribute to all peacekeepers. They shared their views on the challenges the peacekeeping operations were facing and the future development of peacekeeping operations. Most members stressed the importance of mandate fulfilment and impartiality for peacekeeping operations, and expressed their support for assessing the performance of peacekeeping operations and the improvement of training activities. For peacekeeping operations mandated with protection of civilians, some Council members stressed the need to provide those missions with necessary resources. They also reiterated the necessity for the Council to strengthen its coordination and cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 25 June, the Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict to consider the report submitted by the Secretary-General on this subject (S/2012/376).

After the statement by the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos; the Assistant Secretary-General in the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović; and the Director for International Law and Cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Philip Spoerri, also briefed the Council. Representatives of Council members, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Harold Caballeros, and approximately 30 non-Council members participated actively in the debate.

The Secretary-General said that “too many people are dying in too many places” and pointed to recent developments relating to threats to civilian populations, including in Somalia, the Sudan and South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire and the Syrian Arab Republic. He highlighted his five continuing core challenges for civilian protection and urged the Council to do more in ensuring the protection of civilians. The Under-Secretary-General said that the Secretary-General’s report provided a compelling reminder of the situation that confronts civilians affected by conflict and violence, and of the pressing need to strengthen efforts to protect them. She said the solution to many of the problems seen in contemporary conflicts is strengthened compliance by parties to conflict with the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The Assistant Secretary-General, delivering a statement on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, stressed that the human rights monitoring and protection work undertaken by the United Nations was essential to safeguarding civilians in armed conflict and elsewhere, and urged the Council to continue to include explicit provisions on protection and accountability in its resolutions. He further said missions that receive monitoring and other human rights mandates should be given the necessary material and personnel resources to carry out their duties. The representative of ICRC expressed concern over threats affecting the security and delivery of health care in conflict situations.

Participating Member States addressed a wide range of issues, including the need to address the five core challenges identified by the Secretary-General in his report, the importance of providing necessary resources and training for the peacekeeping operations authorized to protect civilians, and the need for all the parties to conflict to facilitate humanitarian access and strengthen accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Some members stressed the need for full respect for the mandate of protection of civilians in armed conflict.

Other matters

Consultative meeting of members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council

On 13 June, the members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council held their sixth annual consultative meeting and exchanged

views on United Nations/African Union cooperation, the situations in Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Somalia and the Sudan/South Sudan. A joint communiqué (S/2012/444) was issued after the meeting.

Informal interactive dialogues

On 5 June, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with Carlos Gomes Junior; the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, representing the President of ECOWAS; the Permanent Representative of Angola, speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries; the Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission; and the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

On 7 June, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Nabil el-Araby, on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 15 June, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with a high-level delegation of ECOWAS, composed among others of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Kadre Ouédraogo; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, Djibril Bassolé; and the Defence Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, Paul Kofi Kofi; and the Permanent Representatives of Mali and the Niger, and exchanged views on the situation in Mali. A delegation from the African Union, especially the African Union Peace and Security Council, also took part in the discussion.
