
Introduction

In the past 12 months the trend towards a steady increase in the workload of the Security Council continued. There was an increase also in the already growing trend towards transparency.

Iraq figured prominently in the agenda from the summer and autumn of 2002 until the end of the period covered by the present report. The Security Council found a path of unanimity with the adoption of resolution 1441 (2002) and, in spite of divisions that emerged later over the course of action to be taken on Iraq, it managed to find that path again with the adoption of resolutions 1472 (2003), 1476 (2003) and 1483 (2003), and was thus able to work with a unity of purpose for the future of Iraq.

The Security Council did not, however, lose sight of other priority issues. Africa was, once again, a major priority. The Council continued to devote most of its efforts to the African region, including through debates, many of them in open meetings, on several conflict situations in the continent, such as those in Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Somalia and the Central African Republic, and best exemplified its concern in the holding of two missions, to Central and West Africa, in June and July 2003. The Council had a strategic look at conflicts in Africa and considered the role of the Council missions and other United Nations mechanisms in promoting peace and security in the continent during a public meeting held in May.

The situation in the Middle East continued to be considered by the Security Council with a monthly periodicity, the major development being the publication of the Quartet's road map in April 2003. Afghanistan was also the subject of debate every four to six weeks, sometimes with regard to specific issues (security in February 2003, drug trafficking in June 2003). Afghanistan will be the focus of a Council mission in the autumn of 2003.

On general issues, counter-terrorism remained a matter for the Council's attention, mainly through the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), but also through the political impulse received in open meetings of the Council devoted to the question. Coordination and exchange of information between that Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267

(1999) continued to improve during the past 12 months.

Africa

West Africa

The situation in the West African subregion seriously deteriorated over the year, conflict breaking out in Côte d'Ivoire and the worsening instability in Liberia spilling over into neighbouring countries. More hopeful was the continuing gradual improvement in the situation in Sierra Leone.

After a mutiny of troops in Abidjan on 19 September 2002, rebels seized control of northern Côte d'Ivoire. Two other rebel groups later emerged in the west. After a ceasefire was concluded, a conference of all Ivorian parties was held in Paris in January 2003 under the chairmanship of France. This produced the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, endorsed by regional heads of State, which created a government of national reconciliation. Both France and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sent troops to Côte d'Ivoire at the invitation of the Government, to monitor the ceasefire and support the full implementation of the Agreement. On 4 February 2003, the Security Council endorsed the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement in resolution 1464 (2003), and welcomed the deployment of French and ECOWAS troops. On 13 May, the Council authorized, by resolution 1479 (2003), the establishment of a United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) for an initial period of six months, inter alia, with a mandate to facilitate the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.

The conflict in Liberia worsened, thousands more people becoming refugees and internally displaced, in addition to the new waves of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire. The rebel group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) gained territory, there were sporadic incursions into Sierra Leonean territory, and the Liberians were reported to be fighting in Côte d'Ivoire. The President of the Council made a statement on the situation in Liberia on 13 December 2002. On 6 May 2003, sanctions on Liberia were renewed for a further period of 12 months. The Security Council also decided to impose

sanctions on all round logs and timber products originating in Liberia. These sanctions came into effect on 7 July 2003 for a period of 10 months.

Following the serious deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Liberia, the Secretary-General on 28 June 2003 requested the Security Council to take urgent action to authorize the deployment of a multinational force with a mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to prevent a major humanitarian tragedy in Liberia and stabilize the situation. On 8 July, the Secretary-General appointed Jacques Klein as his Special Representative for Liberia. Mr. Klein briefed the Council on 24 July and a press statement by the Council Presidency was issued after the consultations. Further consultations were held on 30 July, at which the United States of America introduced a draft resolution on the deployment of an ECOWAS vanguard force, followed by a multinational force and a United Nations peacekeeping operation as proposed by the Secretary-General.

The situation in Sierra Leone continued to improve, allowing the Security Council in September to authorize the beginning of the gradual drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). The Council took a decision on the Secretary-General's recommendation about the UNAMSIL drawdown, contained in his latest report, by resolution 1492 (2003). The Special Court for Sierra Leone started its operations, as did the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and by July 2003 it had issued indictments against 12 people. The United Nations embargo against the import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone without a valid certificate of origin, imposed by resolution 1306 (2000) and renewed by resolution 1446 (2002), expired on 4 June 2003.

The Security Council expressed its concern at the serious regional problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenaries in resolution 1467 (2003), of 18 March 2003, in which it recommended ways to tackle the problem.

From 26 June to 5 July 2003 a mission of the Security Council visited West Africa and, upon its return, submitted a report to the Security Council with observations and recommendations on Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the West African subregion.

The Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa was requested to take a closer look at Guinea-Bissau and the Group's Chairman, Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul (Mauritius), took part in a visit by the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau in November 2002. The Security Council remained concerned by the serious economic situation in the country and called on the Government to take the necessary steps to facilitate dialogue with the international community and to endorse the partnership approach defined by the Economic and Social Council Advisory Group after their visit. The above-mentioned mission of the Security Council to West Africa visited Guinea-Bissau on 27 and 28 June 2003, jointly with a mission of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the Economic and Social Council. The mission welcomed the statement by the President, Kumba Yalá, that he intends to hold elections on 12 October 2003. Other requirements must be met, however, including the complete revision of current electoral registers and ensuring that all parties can campaign freely.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The past year has seen real progress in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly with regard to the withdrawal of foreign forces and political agreement among the Congolese parties. Serious violence has continued on the ground, however, especially in the east of the country. The people of the Congo have yet to feel the benefits of political progress. Agreement has been reached on the process for building a transitional national government, but implementation will require the full commitment of the parties, the cooperation of regional players and the support of the international community.

The Security Council has recognized the real progress in the peace process. In its resolution 1445 (2002) of 4 December 2002, the Council welcomed the Pretoria and Luanda agreements reached between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, respectively, Rwanda and Uganda; welcomed the withdrawal of most of the foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and endorsed a new concept of operations and ceiling for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). In its resolution 1468 (2003) of 20 March 2003, the Council welcomed

the agreement reached by the Congolese parties and called for its full implementation.

The Council has maintained steady pressure on all the parties to live up to their commitments. In various statements to the press, presidential statements and resolutions, the Council has condemned continuing violence, especially violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Council has also, on numerous occasions, reiterated its demand for an end to all support for the armed groups. Despite the authorization by the Council of deployments under MONUC Phase III, the number of combatants entering disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement or reintegration programmes remains low. Progress has been hampered by the continuing violence and by obstruction on the part of some of the leaders of the armed groups.

In its resolution 1457 (2003) of 24 January 2003, the Council gave a new mandate to the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a further six months. The Panel will report to the Council in September 2003. The Panel presented its mid-term review to the Council on 24 July 2003.

In the spring of 2003, the security situation and humanitarian conditions seriously deteriorated in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, characterized by killings, unspeakable human rights abuses and significant outflows of refugees and internally displaced persons. The Council constantly monitored the situation, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations providing regular updates. On 15 May 2003 the Secretary-General, in a letter addressed to the President of the Council, called upon the Security Council to consider quickly deploying a multinational emergency force in Bunia.

On 30 May 2003 the Council, by resolution 1484 (2003), authorized the deployment until 1 September 2003 of an Interim Emergency Multinational Force in Bunia with a mandate under Chapter VII, to contribute inter alia to the stabilization of the security conditions and the improvement of the humanitarian situation in Bunia. France became the lead nation in the multinational force that was later deployed and that became an operation of the European Union. The Council stressed that the Interim Emergency Multinational Force was deployed on a temporary basis

to allow the Secretary-General to reinforce the MONUC presence in Bunia.

From 7 to 16 June 2003, the Security Council visited the Great Lakes region and, upon its return, presented a report to the Security Council with observations and recommendations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Burundi.

On 18 July 2003, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at which it heard presentations by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.

On 30 June 2003, the mandate of MONUC was to expire. In resolution 1489 (2003), the Security Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 July 2003. A resolution on a further extension and strengthening of MONUC was adopted on 28 July 2003.

Burundi

The Security Council continued to support the implementation of the Arusha transitional arrangements and has repeatedly and publicly stressed the necessity for all rebel groups to lay down their arms and join in the peace process. Since the ceasefire of 2 December 2002 between the Government of Burundi and CNDD-FDD, the Council has called on the international community to support the African Mission in Burundi and called on all parties to respect the transitional timetable and process laid down in the Arusha agreements. The Council warmly welcomed the transfer of power from President Pierre Buyoya to President Domitien Ndayizeye on 1 May 2003.

Kimberley Process

On 28 January 2003 the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1459 (2003) welcoming the launch of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

Angola

On 9 December 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1448 (2002), by which it lifted all sanctions against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA).

On 12 February 2003, members of the Security Council welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the completion of the United Nations Mission in Angola, on 15 February.

Members of the Security Council commended the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Angola for his efforts to bring this important phase of United Nations involvement in Angola to a successful conclusion.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

As the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea was about to enter the crucial phase of demarcation, the Security Council urged the two parties to continue to assume their responsibilities and fulfil their commitments under the Algiers Agreements and to cooperate fully and promptly with the Boundary Commission to ensure an expeditious and orderly demarcation process. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) troops continued to monitor the Temporary Security Zone between the two countries and the Council extended the mandate of UNMEE for a further six months on 14 March 2003. A presidential statement was adopted on 17 July.

Somalia

The Security Council adopted a presidential statement on 12 March 2003 to support the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) frontline States in facilitating the Somalia National Reconciliation Process. The Council welcomed the opening of the National Reconciliation Conference at Eldorat, Kenya, in October 2002, under IGAD auspices, and its subsequent move to Mbagathi in February 2003. The Council encouraged all parties throughout Somalia to participate in the process and demanded that all Somalia parties abide by and implement expeditiously the decisions adopted throughout, including the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the Structures and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process.

The Council welcomed the report of the Panel of Experts set up pursuant to resolution 1425 (2002). The report contained several recommendations to improve the enforcement of the arms embargo on Somalia. By resolution 1474 (2003) of 8 April 2003, the Council established a second Panel of Experts to follow up the work of the first Panel by conducting further

investigations and refining the recommendations contained in the first report. Further consultations were held on 16 July and a statement to the press was issued by the President of the Council.

Central African Republic

The Security Council continued to monitor the political situation in the Central African Republic, which remained tense, and supported the deployment of troops of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (CEMAC) to the Central African Republic in October 2002. The Council later condemned the coup d'état of 15 March 2003, led by General Bozizé. In July 2003 the Council noted with satisfaction that the Central African authorities had opted for a consensual management of the transition period by involving all the political factions and the other actors of civil society. The Council invited the Central African authorities to fulfil their commitment to holding presidential elections before the end of 2004. The Council recognized the importance of donor support to the Central African authorities to bring about the return to constitutional order and lasting peace.

Western Sahara

In January 2003 the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, James A. Baker III, presented to the parties his peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with Security Council resolution 1429 (2002). As he had requested, the parties and the observers to the peace process provided their detailed comments on the document in March. On 2 May, the Personal Envoy briefed the Council members on the responses of the parties and exchanged views on a possible way forward. On 25 March and 30 May, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to allow the process to continue. After intensive negotiations, members of the Council reached agreement on the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America, in which the Council expressed strong support for the latest peace plan as an optimal political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties, and called upon the parties to work with the United Nations and with each other towards acceptance and implementation of the plan. Resolution 1495 (2003) was adopted unanimously.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

As reported in the letter dated 29 August 2002 from the then chairman of the Working Group, Mauritius, to the President of the Security Council, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa held meetings and made recommendations on the following issues: the concept of the group of friends; cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union; and cooperation on Guinea-Bissau between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

Angola took over from Mauritius the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Working Group in January 2003.

Since April 2003, the Ad Hoc Working Group has adopted a calendar of activities for 2003, held meetings on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and held joint meetings on Guinea-Bissau with the Advisory Group of the Economic and Social Council and the group of friends of Guinea-Bissau. The Chairman of the Working Group was actively involved in the preparation of the Security Council mission to Central Africa and the Guinea-Bissau leg of the Security Council mission to West Africa.

Asia

Afghanistan

The Security Council continued to monitor the implementation of the Bonn Agreement via regular reports of the Secretary-General and briefings by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lakhdar Brahimi. The lack of security in areas outside Kabul and its impact on the Bonn process was a recurring theme. Towards the end of the period under consideration, discussions began to focus on preparations for the Constitutional Loya Jirga which is to be held in October 2003, and the elections scheduled for June 2004.

On 27 November 2002, the Council adopted resolution 1444 (2002), extending the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) until 20 December 2003. The Council also welcomed the decision of Germany and the Netherlands to jointly assume from Turkey the lead in commanding ISAF.

On 24 December 2002, the Security Council adopted resolution 1453 (2002), in which it endorsed the Kabul Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations signed on 22 December by the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan and the Governments of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

On 28 March 2003, the Council adopted resolution 1471 (2003), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for a further period of 12 months. The Council acknowledged the importance of effective preparation for the elections of June 2004 by endorsing the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of an electoral unit within UNAMA, and encouraging Member States to support United Nations electoral activities in Afghanistan.

On 24 February, the Council held a public meeting on the reform of the security sector and heard briefings by the special envoys of Germany and Japan on progress in the area of political training and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

On 17 June, the Council held a public meeting focused on the drug problem. The President made a statement on behalf of the Council, expressing the support of the Council for the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs within Afghanistan and in neighbouring States along trafficking routes, including increased cooperation among them to strengthen anti-narcotic controls and curb the drug flow.

Timor-Leste

The Security Council continued to receive regular reports from the Secretary-General and to hear briefings by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma, on the work of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) in assisting the Government of Timor-Leste in the development of the institutions and infrastructure of an independent State. The Council noted that, while steady progress was being achieved, challenges remained in areas such as public administration, justice and policing. The need for the continued support of the international community, including post-UNMISSET, was another strong theme.

On 3 March 2003, the Secretary-General issued a special report on Timor-Leste in which he assessed that

the timetable for downsizing UNMISSET should be revised to take account of changes in the security situation. On 4 April, the Security Council adopted resolution 1473 (2003), which provided for adjustments to the downsizing schedule of the military and police elements of UNMISSET.

On 19 May, the Council adopted resolution 1480 (2003) to extend the mandate of UNMISSET until 20 May 2004.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 19 February 2003, the Security Council acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, reporting that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was in further non-compliance with its obligation under the Safeguards Agreement pursuant to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and that the Agency was unable to verify non-diversion of nuclear material subject to safeguards. On 9 April, the Council held consultations of the whole on the nuclear issue relating to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Bougainville

The Security Council continued to receive quarterly reports concerning Bougainville from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. On 28 March 2003, an open meeting was held. Members were informed about the remaining challenges and benchmarks to be achieved by the parties to the Bougainville Peace Agreement and on the exit strategy of the United Nations Office in Bougainville.

In June 2003, the Peace Monitoring Group brought its mission to an end.

Middle East

Israel/Palestine

The Security Council continued to consider the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, on a regular basis, in particular with monthly briefings by the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative and Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Terje Roed-Larsen, or senior Secretariat staff. In September 2002 the Quartet agreed that there was a need for a road map to achieve a

permanent settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the realization of the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side within secure and recognized borders, as was affirmed in resolution 1397 (2002).

After a further increase in violence and terrorist acts, the Israeli reoccupation of Palestinian cities and restrictions placed on Palestinians and the resulting impact on their humanitarian situation, the Council held an open meeting on 24 September 2002 and adopted resolution 1435 (2002), in which it reiterated its demand for the complete cessation of all acts of violence. It demanded that Israel cease measures in and around Ramallah and withdraw its occupying forces from Palestinian cities and return them to positions held prior to September 2000. The Council called on the Palestinian Authority to meet its commitment to bring to justice those responsible for terrorist acts.

The Council was not able to agree on a draft resolution on 20 December, tabled following the death of several United Nations employees working in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the destruction of a World Food Programme warehouse.

The Council continued to follow the work of the Quartet, whose road map was officially handed over to the parties on 30 April 2003. In June 2003 the Council presidency reiterated the support for the road map and the Quartet's efforts in a statement to the press. The Council considered the situation in the Middle East monthly, with regular reports from the Secretariat, the latest on 17 July 2003.

The Council also continued to renew the mandates of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on a six-monthly basis. In southern Lebanon there were continuing violations of the Blue Line by both sides, about which the Council expressed great concern; it urged the parties to end those violations.

The Security Council continued to support a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East based on Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002), the foundations of the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, agreements previously reached by the parties and the initiative of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah endorsed at the Beirut Arab League Summit.

Iraq

The Iraq file dominated the attention of the Security Council during the period covered by this report.

Pre-conflict

Disarmament

In the autumn of 2002 international pressure on Iraq to allow the return of inspectors intensified. In a statement to the General Assembly on 12 September 2002, President George W. Bush demanded the disarmament of Iraq and said that the United States of America would work for the necessary resolutions. On 16 September, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Naji Sabri, wrote to the Security Council accepting the return of inspectors without conditions (the Council had long demanded that Iraq accept the unconditional return of weapons inspectors). The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held a number of meetings with the Iraqi regime to discuss practical arrangements for the return of inspectors.

Prior to the return of inspectors, the Council began work on a new resolution, proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Resolution 1441 (2002) was adopted unanimously on 8 November 2002. The new resolution strengthened the inspections regime and afforded Iraq a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations. Annexed to resolution 1441 (2002), and made legally binding, were the practical arrangements set out in a letter dated 8 October 2002 from the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC and the Director General of IAEA.

Inspections in Iraq resumed on 27 November 2002 and on 7 December the Government of Iraq provided a declaration responding to resolution 1441 (2002).

Inspections continued into the winter and spring of 2003. There were regular briefings to the Council by UNMOVIC and IAEA and regular meetings to discuss how to handle the Iraq situation. The United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, made a presentation to the Council on 5 February setting out the United States views on Iraqi non-compliance. The Council held a number of open debates, including at ministerial

level, so that it could hear the views of the membership on this crucial issue. Discussions in the Council centred on whether Iraqi cooperation was adequate and whether more time should be given to the inspection process.

On 24 February, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Spain submitted a draft resolution on Iraq, by which the Council would decide that Iraq had failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it in resolution 1441 (2002). There was intensive debate in the Council. France, Germany and the Russian Federation circulated a memorandum proposing that inspections should continue and be strengthened. For its part, on 6 March, UNMOVIC circulated a list of unresolved disarmament issues.

On 17 March, the sponsors announced that they would not proceed to a vote on their draft resolution. On the same day, after consulting the Council, the Secretary-General announced the withdrawal of United Nations personnel from Iraq. Also on 17 March the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC presented the draft work programme required under resolution 1284 (1999). The Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Australia wrote to the President of the Security Council on 20 March 2003 to inform him of the commencement of military action against Iraq.

Oil-for-food programme

The oil-for-food programme, as modified by the goods review list, continued to address the basic humanitarian needs of the people of Iraq. Deficits in funds available to the programme as a result of previous disruptions in Iraq's oil exports continued to have an impact on the financing of contracts signed under the programme. The Security Council received regular briefings on the implementation of the oil-for-food programme.

The Council reviewed the goods review list mechanism, as required in resolution 1409 (2002), and on 30 December 2002 adopted resolution 1454 (2002), by which it made additional amendments to the existing list of items contained in the goods review list.

During the period of conflict in Iraq, the Security Council reviewed the oil-for-food programme to address the need to continue to provide urgent

humanitarian relief to the people of Iraq. On 28 March the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1472 (2003), by which it modified the oil-for-food programme and authorized the Secretary-General to undertake several functions related to the management and implementation of the programme previously undertaken by the former Government of Iraq. Existing contracts were to be prioritized in such a way as to ensure that essential humanitarian goods already in the pipeline continued to be delivered to the people of Iraq. The measures set out in resolution 1472 (2003) were limited to a period of 45 days and, on 24 April 2003, by the unanimous adoption of resolution 1476 (2003), the Council extended the arrangements until 3 June 2003.

In paragraph 16 of resolution 1483 (2003), adopted on 22 May 2003, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Authority, to continue to exercise his responsibilities under resolutions 1472 (2003) and 1476 (2003) for a period of six months following the adoption of resolution 1483 (2003), and to terminate within that period, in the most cost-effective manner, the ongoing operations of the oil-for-food programme.

Post-conflict

Following the cessation of hostilities in Iraq in April 2003, the Security Council began informally to discuss the role the United Nations should play in Iraq's reconstruction and in the process leading to an internationally recognized government. The Council also held regular meetings, including with non-governmental organizations, to consider the humanitarian situation in Iraq. The Council constantly reviewed the humanitarian situation in Iraq, receiving regular briefings in consultations from the Deputy Secretary-General and at times from the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq. At an open meeting on 22 May, the Council heard a comprehensive briefing from four United Nations agencies on the ground in post-conflict Iraq, namely the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, on their respective responses to the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

On 9 May, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and

Spain put forward a draft resolution on these issues. The Security Council held detailed consultations which led to an amended draft and ultimately to resolution 1483 (2003), adopted on 22 May. Fourteen Council members voted in favour, while the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic indicated, at a later meeting on the same day, that it would have voted in favour had it been given more time to consult its capital.

Resolution 1483 (2003) was wide-ranging. In it, among other things, the Council removed all non-military sanctions imposed upon Iraq since 1990. It established a Special Representative of the Secretary-General with wide-ranging independent responsibilities in the post-conflict processes. It appealed to Member States and concerned organizations to assist the people of Iraq in their efforts to reform their institutions and rebuild their country, and to contribute to conditions of stability and security. It set out key principles. It noted the establishment of the Development Fund for Iraq with requirements for transparency, international auditing and an International Advisory and Monitoring Board. It continued the oil-for-food humanitarian programme for a final period of six months, after which the programme would be terminated and some key functions transferred to the Authority in Iraq.

On 23 May, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had appointed Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as his Special Representative for Iraq for a four-month period.

On 5 June, the Security Council held an open meeting to receive the thirteenth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, in compliance with resolution 1284 (1999). The report covered the period from 1 March to 31 May. On 30 June 2003 the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Hans Blix, stepped down from his post.

On 22 July, the Council held an open briefing at which the Secretary-General addressed the Council and his Special Representative presented his first regular report to the Security Council, as provided for in resolution 1483 (2003). A delegation from the Governing Council of Iraq participated in the meeting.

Other matters

On other Iraq-related matters, the Security Council members were regularly briefed on the work of the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator for

missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov. The Council members remained united in their support for the Coordinator and in their demand that Iraq fulfil its obligations under resolution 1284 (1999) to account for and return all missing nationals and property. A number of developments had given the Secretary-General some hope that progress could be made on the issue of the repatriation and return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals. Among those developments were the resumption of meetings of the Technical Subcommittee during 2003, but the Secretary-General reported that no concrete results had been achieved.

On 3 July 2003, the Security Council adopted resolution 1490 (2003), in which it recognized that the continued operation of UNIKOM and the demilitarized zone established under resolution 687 (1991) were no longer necessary to protect against threats to international security posed by Iraqi action against Kuwait. Therefore the Council decided to continue the mandate of UNIKOM for a final period until 6 October 2003.

Europe

Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro)

The Security Council continued to follow closely events in Kosovo, with regular briefings by the Secretariat or the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

In December 2002, a Council mission visited Pristina and Belgrade. In Pristina the mission found notable progress in several areas with regard to the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999): successful Assembly elections and the Kosovo Police Service helping to improve the rule of law, and recognized the work of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in this respect. But the mission noted that the situation remained fragile and much work remained to be done both by UNMIK and the Kosovo institutions and communities. In particular more effort was needed to establish firmly the rule of law, which was central to achieving security, a functioning democracy and sustainable economic development. Sustainable return of minorities and internally displaced persons was a precondition for a multi-ethnic society and attention

and resources therefore needed to be dedicated to this. The “standards before status” benchmarks of the Special Representative were thought constructive and the mission looked forward to the operationalization of the benchmarks. The mission concluded that continuing substantial international engagement in Kosovo would be necessary for the foreseeable future.

The Council stressed its support for “standards before status”, and reiterated support for resolution 1244 (1999) and the constitutional framework. At subsequent meetings it was reiterated that unilateral pronouncements on status, by any party, were unacceptable. The Council also condemned all acts of violence, encouraged dialogue and cooperation on practical issues between Pristina and Belgrade, and called for ethnic reconciliation in Kosovo with a view to building a multi-ethnic and tolerant society. A presidential statement on those issues was adopted on 6 February 2003. They were underlined again during public meetings of the Council on 10 June and 3 July.

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia

In June and July 2002 the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) was renewed for three short periods by resolutions 1418 (2002), 1420 (2002) and 1421 (2002), which provided for technical rollovers for the Mission for as long as agreement could not be reached on the issue of possible investigations or prosecutions by the International Criminal Court of current or former officials or personnel of United Nations peacekeeping operations from States not parties to the Rome Statute.

A draft resolution on the renewal of the mandate of UNMIBH which did not include a provision on this issue was submitted to a vote on 3 July 2002 and was not adopted (there was one abstention (Bulgaria) and one vote against (United States of America)).

On 10 July 2002 the Security Council held a public meeting on Bosnia and Herzegovina, at which delegations addressed the issue of the renewal of the mandate of UNMIBH and its relation to the International Criminal Court.

Having adopted resolution 1422 (2002) on 12 July, the Security Council then adopted resolution 1423 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIBH until 31 December 2002 (by other provisions of the resolution the mandates of SFOR and the High Representative were extended for 12 months, until 12

July 2003) and resolution 1424 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) until 15 October 2002. The Council by resolution 1437 (2002) authorized a final extension of the mandate of UNMOP until 15 December 2003. On 12 December the Council adopted a presidential statement welcoming a protocol signed by the Government of Croatia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, establishing a provisional cross-border regime on the Prevlaka Peninsula and welcoming the commitment of the two Governments to continuing negotiations on Prevlaka. The International Police Task Force of UNMIBH was replaced by a European Union Police Mission on 1 January 2003.

On 11 July 2003, the Council adopted resolution 1491 (2003) authorizing the continuation for a further planned period of 12 months of the multinational stabilization force (SFOR).

Cyprus

The major effort undertaken by the Secretary-General to reach a comprehensive settlement of the long-running Cyprus issue reached its endgame during the period under review. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the Secretary-General and his team, no settlement was achieved.

In November 2002, Security Council members welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to put forward proposals as a basis for agreement. In December, they expressed the view that the revised proposal put forward on 10 December offered a unique opportunity to reach a settlement. They underlined the importance of intensifying the negotiations so that full agreement could be reached before 28 February 2003 in accordance with the timetable proposed by the Secretary-General. There was a further extension to try to reach an agreement and the leaders of both sides met at The Hague. However, it did not prove possible to reach agreement on the proposal to put to separate and simultaneous referendums the Secretary-General's second revised comprehensive settlement plan, presented to the parties on 26 February 2003.

In resolution 1475 (2003), the Council regretted the negative approach of the Turkish Cypriot leader, which had denied the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots the opportunity to decide for themselves on a plan which would have permitted the reunification of

Cyprus, as described by the Secretary-General in his report to the Council on the end of this phase of the Cyprus talks.

The Council gave its full support to the proposal of 26 February 2003 as a unique basis for further negotiations, and called on all concerned to negotiate using the plan to reach a comprehensive settlement. The Secretary-General informed the Council that he would not propose to take a new initiative without having solid reason to believe that the political will necessary for a successful outcome based on his plan existed, and the Council accepted that judgement and asked the Secretary-General to continue to make his good offices available.

The Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus twice during the year, for a further period of six months on each occasion.

Abkhazia, Georgia

The Security Council continued to monitor the United Nations peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia, throughout the reporting period. The situation in the conflict zone, including the Kodori Valley, remained calm but unstable. For much of the period, there was little progress on the political track although the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) continued to search for ways to engage the Georgian, but particularly the Abkhaz, side on the paper entitled "Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi".

On 30 January 2003, the Security Council, by resolution 1462 (2003), renewed the mandate of UNOMIG for six months. The Council also heard a number of briefings by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Heidi Tagliavini. On 19 and 20 February, senior representatives of the Group of Friends convened at Geneva under the chairmanship of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to brainstorm informally on the way ahead in the Abkhaz peace process. The meeting produced a number of recommendations which are currently being followed up. On 6 and 7 March, the Presidents of Georgia and the Russian Federation met in Sochi to further consider the peace process. A number of initiatives flowed from that meeting and are also being followed up. In July 2003, senior

representatives of the Group of Friends met for the second time to consider the way ahead in the peace process.

A private meeting was held on 30 July 2003, with the participation of Georgia, followed by a public meeting at which the Council renewed the mandate of UNOMIG for a further six-month period by resolution 1494 (2003).

General issues

Counter-terrorism

The Counter-Terrorism Committee continued to work intensively and thoroughly to fulfil its mandate as set out in resolution 1373 (2001). During the review period, the chairmanship of the Committee was transferred from Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom) to Ambassador Inocencio Arias (Spain) on 4 April 2003.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee deepened its dialogue with Member States on the steps taken to implement the resolution. The submission of a final outstanding report in May 2003 widened the dialogue to include detailed exchanges with every one of the 191 Members of the United Nations. As at 31 July, the Committee had received a total of 191 first-round reports from Member States, 2 from non-members (Cook Islands and Niue) and 3 others (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, European Union, UNMIK). It had also received 147 second-round reports from Member States and 1 from a non-member (European Union). Finally, it had received 50 third-round reports from Member States. In reviewing the information received, the Committee concentrated on ensuring that as a first priority States had in place legislation covering all aspects of resolution 1373 (2001), and executive machinery for tackling terrorist financing. It continued to pay attention to the assistance needs, taking an increasingly proactive approach to working with States to identify needs and possible sources of assistance.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee convened a major meeting of some 60 international, regional and subregional organizations on 6 March 2003. Participants agreed that all invited organizations had a role to play in enhancing the effectiveness of global action against terrorism. The Committee's follow-up action plan aims to deepen contacts with relevant

organizations, improve the flow of information, strengthen coordinated action on international best practice, codes and standards that are relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), enhance the role of regional and subregional organizations, and liaise with them to further facilitate the provision of assistance.

In this area the Committee has adopted a tailored approach to strengthening its cooperation with relevant international organizations and has sent a first round of letters to 17 international organizations pointing out concrete areas where information and expertise can be shared; it will continue with this approach in the future, with other relevant international organizations.

The Committee is coordinating its own activity with that of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) (al-Qa'idah and Taliban) and is producing a joint press release in which the establishment, mandates and functions of the two Committees are compared in order to give a better understanding of their respective work.

Counter-terrorism also received political impetus from meetings of the Council devoted to the issue. A high-level open meeting was held on 11 September 2002, one year after the tragic events of 11 September 2001, and on that occasion the Council adopted a presidential statement in which it honoured the victims and expressed solidarity with their families, and reconfirmed the resolve and the commitment of all its members and the international community to the fight against terrorism. Other meetings were held in 2003, such as the high-level ministerial meeting on 20 January 2003, which ended with the adoption of resolution 1456 (2003), and an open meeting convened in May 2003 with the participation of the Prime Minister of Spain.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999): al-Qa'idah, the Taliban and other associated groups and entities

Through the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council continued to focus on the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the threat posed to international peace and security by al-Qa'idah, the Taliban and other associated groups.

The Committee's Monitoring Group continued its work of monitoring the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1333 (2000), 1390 (2002) and 1455 (2003). The Monitoring Group reported regularly to the Committee on its activities in pursuit of its mandate. A number of recommendations were submitted to the Committee by the Monitoring Group and were considered during meetings of the Committee.

On 20 December 2002 the Security Council, by resolution 1452 (2002), established some exceptions, mainly for humanitarian needs, to the measures imposed by the relevant resolutions.

On 17 January 2003, the Council decided to improve the implementation by Member States of the sanctions regime imposed upon al-Qa'idah, the Taliban and other associated groups and individuals by unanimously adopting resolution 1455 (2003). By that resolution it enhanced the role of the Committee in a number of areas, including through the opportunity to review the steps taken by Member States to implement Security Council resolutions pertaining to al-Qa'idah. The Committee continues to work on this important area and report regularly to the Security Council. By the resolution the Council also called on all States to report by mid-April on their implementation of the sanctions. As at 31 July 2003, the Committee had received a total of 66 reports, as published on the Committee's web site. The Chairman has reminded States which have not yet submitted their report to do so as soon as possible to allow for an overall assessment of actions taken by States to implement this important sanctions regime.

The Committee continued to discharge its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions. Following several months of intensive consultations, the Committee agreed to a revised set of guidelines for the conduct of its work, which were agreed on 7 November 2002. Other areas of activity during the period included the review of the structure and content of the Committee's consolidated list of individuals and entities. This process led to the adoption of a revised and improved consolidated list on 4 March 2003. The Committee also set out clear guidance for reports required of all States pursuant to resolution 1455 (2003).

On 15 April 2003 the Chairman of the Committee reported orally to the Council on the overall work of

the Committee and the Monitoring Group. On 29 July the Council held a public meeting and the Chairman of the Committee gave his second oral report, including an assessment of the implementation by Member States of the measures imposed by the Council.

Peacekeeping

Under the mechanism providing for joint meetings of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and major troop-contributing countries the first meeting was held on 23 August 2002 to discuss the situation in Sierra Leone.

Pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), troop-contributing countries also received periodic briefings on other peacekeeping missions.

On 12 June 2003 the Council, by resolution 1487 (2003), renewed for one year the provision contained in paragraph 1 of resolution 1422 (2002) whereby the Council requested the International Criminal Court not to commence or proceed with the investigation or prosecution of any case involving officials or personnel from a State not a party to the Rome Statute over acts or omissions relating to United Nations operations. Whereas resolution 1422 (2002) had been adopted by unanimity, three Council members (France, Germany and the Syrian Arab Republic) abstained in the vote on resolution 1487 (2003), which followed an open debate on the matter.

Sanctions

The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola (UNITA), the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia held joint informal meetings in 2002 to exchange views on issues relating to the diamond embargoes, the arms embargoes and the travel bans.

On 25 February 2003, the Security Council heard a briefing on the results of the Stockholm Process on the Implementation of Targeted Sanctions, which has built on the results of previous efforts undertaken in this field. Members of the Council acknowledged that targeted sanctions are a useful tool to focus pressure on targeted States and entities, while minimizing

unintended impact on civilian populations and non-targeted States and entities.

The Working Group on general issues relating to sanctions continued its work during the period in question, under the chairmanship of Cameroon. The Working Group has made specific proposals concerning the management, implementation and monitoring of sanctions. It has yet to reach consensus on some key issues such as the sunset clause.

International tribunals

In response to a request of the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Security Council, by resolution 1481 (2003), amended article 13 quater of the statute of the Tribunal, so that, during the period when an ad litem judge is appointed to serve in the Tribunal for a trial, he or she may also adjudicate in pre-trial proceedings in other cases.

Resolution 1482 (2003) was adopted to address concerns brought to the Council's attention by the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. By that resolution, the Council decided that four judges, including the President of the Tribunal, would finish specific cases that had begun prior to the end of their respective terms of office.

Thematic issues

There were a number of thematic discussions in the course of the year. On 25 July and 28 and 29 October 2002, the Security Council held open debates on women and peace and security. In broad terms, at the July meeting the members acknowledged the need to integrate a gender perspective throughout the United Nations, both at Headquarters and in the field; looked forward to the publication of the Secretary-General's study on women and peace and security; and recognized the value of resolution 1325 (2000) in taking forward gender mainstreaming. In connection with the second anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the Council held an open debate with the participation of the Secretary-General. Subsequently, on 31 October 2002, the President of the Council made a statement on this subject. The Council reaffirmed in the statement its commitment to the full and continuing implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and reaffirmed the importance of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction.

On 14 January 2003, the Council held an open debate on children and armed conflict with the participation of the Secretary-General, who made a statement calling for the observance of the international framework for the protection of children in situations of armed conflict, urging those parties to armed conflict listed in his report to stop using and recruiting children in violation of international obligations. The Council subsequently adopted resolution 1460 (2003).

On 11 October 2002, the Council held an open debate on small arms. Members focused discussions on the Secretary-General's report, in which a number of observations and recommendations regarding the ways and means of addressing the issue of small arms were made. At the close of the debate, on 31 October 2002, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council.

On 18 March 2003, the Council held an open debate on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities: threats to peace and security in West Africa, with the participation of the Secretary-General and ministers from West African countries. The members acknowledged that the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the use of mercenaries in West Africa sustain conflict, exacerbate violence and impede political, economic and social development. Members made commitments to address this issue and called for the observance of the legal instruments and other international agreements on this issue. The Council adopted resolution 1467 (2003).

On 11 April 2003, the Council held an open debate on the Security Council and regional organizations: facing the new challenges to international peace and security. The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General and by heads or representatives of the African Union, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States. Proposals made at the meeting were incorporated in a letter from the President of the Council to the Secretary-General.

On 13 May 2003, an open debate was held on the role of the Security Council in the pacific settlement of disputes. The meeting explored the potential for promoting the pacific settlement of international

disputes through the means and framework set forth in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. In a statement adopted at the end of the debate, the Council reiterated its commitment to make wider and effective use of the procedures and means enshrined in Chapter VI, particularly Articles 33 to 38, as one of the

essential components of its work to promote and maintain international peace and security.

The question of the protection of civilians in armed conflict was pursued on a six-monthly basis, debates being held in December 2002 and June 2003.