

Nations Office for West Africa as a focal point for United Nations support of regional efforts and those within Liberia itself; concurred on the need to reinforce efforts to control the flow of small arms and stop the illegal exploitation of natural resources; agreed that sanctions had played a positive role in the search for peace in Sierra Leone, but at the same time, there was the need to reconcile differences between the Council and others on the future of sanctions, particularly in relation to Liberia; emphasized the need to strengthen the mediation and conflict resolution efforts of ECOWAS, and the possible role of the European Union

in that endeavour; concurred that it was crucial for the United Nations to mobilize resources for peacebuilding as well as peacekeeping in order to create the right environment to promote investment in the region over the long-term; stressed the importance for the international community of being engaged with Liberia and the need for a comprehensive conflict-resolution strategy for Liberia; acknowledged the critical role played by the Security Council in bringing key players together, including the international financial institutions and relevant countries in the region; and supported the creation of a Mano River Union Contact Group.

### 13. The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

#### **Decision of 12 May 2000 (4142nd meeting): resolution 1297 (2000)**

At its 4142nd meeting,<sup>1</sup> on 12 May 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda the report on the Security Council special mission visit to Eritrea and Ethiopia on 9 and 10 May 2000.<sup>2</sup> In its report, the mission noted that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) negotiations had produced a substantial number of agreements and drafts on a ceasefire, withdrawal, interim arrangements and arbitration and final demarcation of the disputed territory between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The mission observed that the differences between Eritrea and Ethiopia, while real, were clearly relatively small and manageable and could be resolved by intensive negotiations over time. Nevertheless, the two sides were on the verge of resuming a senseless war over these differences. The mission had concentrated on creating a mechanism to get past this blockage without going inside the “box” of the details of the OAU negotiations. The mechanism eventually agreed was a draft resolution calling for proximity talks to resume at the invitation of OAU, although the mission had stressed that any resolution would be the sole responsibility of the full Council and that the

mission would only seek the views of the two sides, not be bound by them.

The President (China) then drew the attention of the Council to several documents: a letter dated 12 May 2000 from the representative of Eritrea, in which he stated that Ethiopia had renewed aggression against Eritrea and requested the Council to condemn Ethiopia’s resumption of the war and to support Eritrea’s right to self-defence;<sup>3</sup> letters dated 11 and 12 May 2000 from the representative of Ethiopia, asserting that Eritrea was the aggressor and had sabotaged the peace talks and calling on the Council to assist in stopping the war; and transmitting a letter of 12 May on the origins and current status of the conflict, respectively;<sup>4</sup> and a letter dated 12 May 2000 from the representative of Algeria, transmitting a communiqué from the Chairman of OAU.<sup>5</sup>

He also drew attention to a draft resolution;<sup>6</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1297 (2000), by which the Council, inter alia:

Strongly condemned the renewed fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea;

Demanded that both parties immediately cease all military action and refrain from the use of force;

Demanded the earliest possible reconvening of substantive peace talks on the basis of the Framework

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<sup>1</sup> During this period, in addition to the meetings covered in this section, the Council held a number of meetings in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B.

The meetings were held on 10 September 2001 (4369th), 14 March 2002 (4491st), 13 August 2002 (4599th), 10 March 2003 (4716th) and 9 September 2003 (4821st).

<sup>2</sup> S/2000/413.

<sup>3</sup> S/2000/420.

<sup>4</sup> S/2000/421 and S/2000/422.

<sup>5</sup> S/2000/427.

<sup>6</sup> S/2000/419.

Agreement and the Modalities for Implementation<sup>7</sup> and of the work conducted by OAU; resolved to meet again within 72 hours of the adoption of the resolution to take immediate steps to ensure compliance with this resolution in the event that hostilities continue;

Reaffirmed its full support for the efforts of OAU and of other interested parties;

Endorsed the Framework Agreement and the Modalities for Implementation as the basis for the peaceful resolution of the dispute between the two parties;

Endorsed also the communiqué of 5 May 2000 issued by the current Chairman of OAU, which recorded the achievements of OAU-led negotiations;

Called on both parties to ensure the safety of the civilian populations and fully respect human rights and international humanitarian law.

**Decision of 17 May 2000 (4144th meeting):  
resolution 1298 (2000)**

At the 4144th meeting, on 17 May 2000, the President (China) drew the attention of the Council to the following documents: a letter dated 15 May 2000 from the representative of Ethiopia;<sup>8</sup> a letter dated 15 May 2000 from the representative of Ethiopia;<sup>9</sup> and a letter dated 12 May 2000 from the representative of Portugal.<sup>10</sup>

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by Bangladesh, Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States;<sup>11</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as

resolution 1298 (2000), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, *inter alia*:

Strongly condemned the continued fighting between Eritrea and Ethiopia;

Demanded that both parties immediately cease all military action and refrain from the further use of force;

Requested that the current Chairman of OAU consider dispatching his Personal Envoy to the region to seek immediate cessation of hostilities and resumption of the peace talks; decided that all States should prevent: (a) the sale or supply to Eritrea and Ethiopia, by their nationals or from their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned, whether or not originating in their territory; (b) any provision to Eritrea and Ethiopia by their nationals or from their territories of technical assistance or training related to the provision, manufacture, maintenance or use of the items in (a) above;

Decided also that the measures imposed should not apply to supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian use, as approved in advance by the Committee established pursuant to the resolution;

Decided to establish a Committee of the Security Council consisting of all the members of the Council, to undertake tasks and to report on its work to the Council with its observations and recommendations;

Decided that the measures imposed above were established for 12 months and that, at the end of the period, the Council would decide whether the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia had complied with those measures, and, accordingly, whether to extend the measures for a further period with the same conditions;

Decided also that the measures imposed should be terminated immediately if the Secretary-General reported that a peaceful definitive settlement of the conflict has been concluded.

**Decision of 31 July 2000 (4181st meeting):  
resolution 1312 (2000)**

At its 4181st meeting, on 31 July 2000, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea of 30 June 2000,<sup>12</sup> in which the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities on 18 June 2000. He noted that the parties had called upon the United Nations, in cooperation with OAU, to establish a peacekeeping

<sup>7</sup> See S/1998/1223, annex, and S/1999/794, annex.

<sup>8</sup> S/2000/430, transmitting a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who stated that the Council had not been fair to Ethiopia, which was the victim of aggression, and expressed disappointment in resolution 1297 (2000). He reiterated that Ethiopia was prepared to go immediately to the proximity talks and commence where they had left off on 5 May 2000. Observing that the Council was contemplating punitive measures, including an arms embargo, on Ethiopia, he stressed that the decision would send a message that the principles of international law had no relevance to the region and would be a recipe for disaster.

<sup>9</sup> S/2000/435, transmitting a communiqué of the sixty-fourth session of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity, which appealed to both parties to put an immediate end to hostilities.

<sup>10</sup> S/2000/437, transmitting a statement by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union.

<sup>11</sup> S/2000/440.

<sup>12</sup> S/2000/643.

operation and a Military Coordination Commission to assist in the implementation of the Agreement. Finally, he noted that the Agreement called upon the Council to adopt “appropriate measures” under Chapter VII of the Charter should the parties violate their commitments.

The President (Jamaica) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 19 June 2000 from the representative of Algeria;<sup>13</sup> letters dated 20 June and 21 July 2000 from the representative of Eritrea;<sup>14</sup> and letters dated 26 June and 18 July 2000 from the representative of Ethiopia.<sup>15</sup>

The President also drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>16</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1312 (2000), by which the Council, inter alia:

Decided to establish the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea consisting of up to 100 military observers and the necessary civilian support staff until 31 January 2001, in anticipation of a peacekeeping operation subject to future Council authorization;

Called on the parties to provide the Mission with the access, assistance, support and protection required for the performance of its duties; requested the parties to facilitate the deployment of mine action experts and assets under the United Nations Mine Action Service to further assess the mine and unexploded ordnance problem and to provide technical assistance to the parties to carry out emergency mine action required;

Decided that the measures imposed by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1298 (2000) should not apply to the sale or supply of equipment and related materiel for the use of the United Nations Mine Action Service, or to the provision of related technical assistance and training by that Service;

Requested the Secretary-General to continue planning for a peacekeeping operation and to begin to take the administrative measures for assembling such a mission, which would be subject to future Council authorization.

**Decision of 15 September 2000  
(4197th meeting): resolution 1320 (2000)**

At its 4187th meeting, on 14 August 2000, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General of 9 August 2000.<sup>17</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General provided information on the establishment and progress of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and set out proposals regarding its expanded mandate and structure, which envisaged up to 2,400 personnel. He noted that the parties had proposed under the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities that UNMEE terminate with the successful conclusion of the delimitation and demarcation of the border. He expected that the parties would exercise every restraint and avoid provocative moves in complying with the commitments they had made under the Agreement and extend their full cooperation to UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate.<sup>18</sup>

At the meeting, the Council then heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, after which all Council members<sup>19</sup> and the representatives of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Japan and Norway made statements. The President (Malaysia) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 11 August 2000 from the representative of Ethiopia.<sup>20</sup>

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations detailed the concept of operations to be put into effect by UNMEE and informed the Council about its initial deployment. He also warned about the dire

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<sup>13</sup> S/2000/601, transmitting the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities.

<sup>14</sup> Formally requesting that the United Nations take the necessary measures to deploy a peacekeeping mission under the auspices of OAU to assist the parties in implementing the agreement (S/2000/612); and requesting the Security Council to investigate the incident on 17 July 2000 when Ethiopian aircraft had violated Eritrean airspace (S/2000/726).

<sup>15</sup> Formally requesting that the United Nations take the necessary measures to deploy a peacekeeping mission under the auspices of OAU to assist the parties in implementing the agreement and denying the allegations made by Eritrea (S/2000/627); and calling for a United Nations investigation into the claims (S/2000/704).

<sup>16</sup> S/2000/729.

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<sup>17</sup> S/2000/785, submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1312 (2000).

<sup>18</sup> For details regarding the mandate and structure of UNMEE, see chapter V.

<sup>19</sup> The representative of France spoke on behalf of the European Union. Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey aligned themselves with the statement.

<sup>20</sup> S/2000/793, transmitting a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the alleged expulsion of Ethiopians from Eritrea on 30 July and on 2, 4 and 7 August 2000, and calling on the international community to take a firm stand publicly against treatment of Ethiopians in Eritrea.

humanitarian situation in Eritrea and Ethiopia and called for massive humanitarian relief.<sup>21</sup>

In their statements, participants covered a number of general topics, including, *inter alia*, the humanitarian situation; the deployment of UNMEE; the importance of determining the common border; the need for demining; the arms embargo; and the importance of the public information component of the Mission, as well as the need for both sides to end negative propaganda. Most of the representatives welcomed the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, the efforts of the President of Algeria and OAU, and the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General. A number of speakers expressed concern about the suspension of the latest round of talks between the parties.

The representative of Eritrea stressed that his country would remain committed to all agreements reached thus far and to those to come in the future between Eritrea and Ethiopia. He reiterated that Eritrea had been invaded and occupied by neighbouring Ethiopia since last May and that the act of invasion in the pursuit of territorial claims was of course a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, of OAU and of international law. He held the view that the report of the Secretary-General was not balanced on the humanitarian developments as it had omitted any mention of the 71,000 Eritreans that had been expelled from Ethiopia, of civilian casualties and of the deliberate destruction of infrastructure by the Ethiopian army. Finally, he emphasized that the deployment of the full peacekeeping operation needed to be expedited.<sup>22</sup>

The representative of Ethiopia hoped the Security Council would act sooner rather than later in authorizing and deploying the peacekeeping force. He emphasized that his country had been a victim of blatant aggression, and they had made their best effort to end the conflict peacefully. He complained that while his Government had adhered to the peace agreement, thousands of people were being deported from Eritrea to Ethiopia under inhumane and harsh conditions. He also rejected the allegations made by Eritrea as blatant lies.<sup>23</sup>

At its 4197th meeting, on 15 September 2000, the Council again included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General of 9 August.<sup>17</sup> The President (Mali) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>24</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1320 (2000), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Authorized the deployment within UNMEE of up to 4,200 troops including up to 220 military observers until 15 March 2001;

Called on the parties to take whatever action might be necessary to ensure the Mission's access, safety and freedom of movement and to provide assistance, support and protection;

Requested the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea to conclude status-of-forces agreements with the Secretary-General within 30 days;

Urged the parties to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all those in need;

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, decided that the measures imposed by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1298 (2000) should not apply to the sale and supply of arms, equipment and related materiel for the sole use in Ethiopia or Eritrea of the United Nations.

**Decision of 21 November 2000 (4230th meeting): statement by the President**

At its 4227th meeting, on 17 November 2000, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General, after which most members of the Council made statements.<sup>25</sup>

In his briefing, the Secretary-General observed that the military deployment of UNMEE was proceeding on schedule, and that the situation on the ground appeared to have stabilized in recent weeks.<sup>26</sup>

Most of the representatives expressed appreciation at the good progress of the Mission deployment, but stressed that the conflict needed to be resolved through a comprehensive peace agreement between the two parties, supported by OAU and the Council. A number of speakers stressed the role of UNMEE was to provide breathing space to facilitate the resolution of differences and could not be considered as a solution to the conflict itself. A few

<sup>21</sup> S/PV.4187, pp. 2-4.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 20-22.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>24</sup> S/2000/867.

<sup>25</sup> The representative of Tunisia did not make a statement.

The Netherlands was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>26</sup> S/PV.4227, p. 2.

speakers emphasized the importance of ensuring the safe access of humanitarian personnel to the population in need.

The President of the Security Council (Netherlands) proposed the establishment of a group of friends of the peace process, as well as some initial confidence-building measures, including the release of interned civilians, the opening of a land and air corridor for UNMEE, and an exchange of prisoners.<sup>27</sup> Many delegations welcomed the suggestions on confidence-building measures.<sup>28</sup>

The representative of Argentina stressed that the use of force in international relations was not a valid means for the acquisition of territory under international law as could be seen from Article 2 (4) of the Charter, and that States were obliged to peacefully solve disputes, as stipulated in Article 2 (3) and 33. Therefore, the withdrawal of troops to defined positions did not prejudice the final status of the disputed territory, which could only result from negotiations conducted by the parties to delineate and demarcate the border.<sup>29</sup>

At the 4230th meeting, on 21 November 2000, the President (Netherlands) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>30</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Noted with appreciation the rounds of proximity talks that have taken place and, pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1320 (2000), called on the parties to continue negotiations and to conclude without delay a final and comprehensive peace settlement; emphasized that the deployment of UNMEE should contribute to a positive climate for negotiations and that it did not replace the need for such a peace settlement;

Reiterated its strong support for the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the State of Eritrea signed in Algiers on 18 June 2000;

Underlined the important role which confidence-building measures could play in dispelling the remaining distrust between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and encouraged both States to agree on a package of such measures;

Encouraged the parties to agree on the immediate release and voluntary and orderly return of interned civilians under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC); the opening of land and air corridors for UNMEE; an exchange of maps showing mined areas; the prompt release of prisoners of war and their return under the auspices of ICRC; and a moratorium on expulsions; underlined the importance of the full compliance of Member States with the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1298 (2000).

#### **Decision of 9 February 2001 (4275th meeting): statement by the President**

At its 4275th meeting, on 9 February 2001, the Council included in its agenda the progress report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea of 12 January 2001.<sup>31</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General stated that the Peace Agreement of 12 December signed by the parties constituted a major achievement. He added that UNMEE was deploying rapidly, but the delay in establishing the temporary security zone was a source of concern. The work of the Boundary Commission would be particularly crucial. As mines and unexploded ordnance remained the pre-eminent threat to UNMEE and the population around the temporary security zone, he urged the international community to increase its support for demining activities and mine-awareness programmes as well as for the Trust Fund and the Boundary Commission.

At the meeting, the President (Tunisia) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>32</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reiterated its strong support for the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities signed by the parties in Algiers on 18 June 2000 and welcomed the subsequent Peace Agreement signed in Algiers on 12 December 2000<sup>33</sup> and the agreement reached by the parties on 6 February 2001 to move forward with the establishment of the temporary security zone on 12 February 2001;

Expressed its strong support for the Secretary-General's role in continuing to help implement the Algiers Agreement; drew the urgent attention of Member States to the fact that funds provided to date for border delimitation and demarcation, through the United Nations Trust Fund, remained clearly inadequate to meet the expenses of the Boundary Commission; noted with appreciation the expeditious deployment of UNMEE and expressed appreciation to the troop-contributing countries and to those Member States that had provided UNMEE with additional assets;

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<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5 (United States); p. 6 (United Kingdom, France); p. 7 (Canada); p. 8 (Bangladesh); p. 10 (Jamaica); and p. 11 (Namibia).

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>30</sup> S/PRST/2000/34.

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<sup>31</sup> S/2001/45, submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 1320 (2000).

<sup>32</sup> S/PRST/2001/4.

<sup>33</sup> S/2000/1183, annex.

Urged the parties to cooperate fully with UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate and to facilitate mine action in coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service;

Encouraged both parties to release civilians that remained interned and to ensure the continued safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to those in need.

**Decision of 15 March 2001 (4294th meeting): resolution 1344 (2001)**

At its 4294th meeting, on 15 March 2001, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General of 7 March 2001.<sup>34</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that despite the difficulties that had emerged, particularly with regard to the establishment of the temporary security zone, Ethiopia and Eritrea had generally continued to demonstrate commitment to the implementation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000. He emphasized that it was essential that both parties granted UNMEE unconditional freedom of movement, including the establishment of the most practicable direct flights between the two capitals. He also stressed that the establishment of the Boundary Commission and the Claims Commission, and the submission of claims and evidence with the set time-frame, as the termination of UNMEE was linked to the final demarcation of the border. He recommended, *inter alia*, the inclusion of the support to the Boundary Commission in the budget of UNMEE, and the extension of the mandate of UNMEE for six months, and its adjustment to include the support to the Boundary Commission.

At the meeting, the President (Ukraine) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 15 March 2001 from the representative of Eritrea addressed to the President of the Security Council,<sup>35</sup> and to a draft resolution;<sup>36</sup> the draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1344 (2001), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

<sup>34</sup> S/2001/202, submitted pursuant to resolution 1320 (2000).

<sup>35</sup> S/2001/229, referring to the report of the Secretary-General and highlighting a number of points in the report that the Government of Eritrea felt had not been addressed adequately.

<sup>36</sup> S/2001/223.

Decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE at the troop and military observer levels authorized by its resolution 1320 (2000) until 15 September 2001;

Called upon the parties to continue working towards the full implementation of their agreement and to fulfil the following obligations: (a) to ensure freedom of movement and access for UNMEE; (b) to establish a direct air corridor between Addis Ababa and Asmara for the safety of United Nations personnel; (c) to conclude Status of Forces Agreements with the Secretary-General; (d) to facilitate mine action in coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service;

Decided to consider the recommendations in paragraphs 50 and 53 of the Secretary-General's report upon receipt of more detailed information;

Called upon all States and international organizations to consider providing further support to the peace process.

**Decision of 15 May 2001 (4320th meeting): statement by the President**

At its 4310th meeting,<sup>37</sup> on 19 April 2001, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, after which all Council members made statements.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations informed Council members about, *inter alia*, the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone on 18 April 2001, which marked the formal separation of the forces of Ethiopia and Eritrea. He noted that the most immediate challenge facing Eritrea was the return of up to 300,000 displaced persons to the Temporary Security Zone. He informed the Council that the deployment of UNMEE was almost complete. Noting that some issues relating to freedom of movement for UNMEE, including the question of direct flights between the capitals, were unresolved, he recommended that the Council encourage the parties to cooperate fully with UNMEE and with the Boundary Commission.<sup>38</sup>

In their statements, delegations welcomed the establishment of the temporary security zone. Several participants expressed concern about the question of the internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as the issue of the direct flights between Addis Ababa and Asmara.

<sup>37</sup> For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. XI, part III, sect. B, with regard to Article 41 of the Charter.

<sup>38</sup> S/PV.4310 and Corr.1, pp. 2-4.

The representative of the Russian Federation maintained that the forward-moving process of stabilization in the conflict zone reaffirmed their consistent position regarding the need for an early lifting of sanctions against both States.<sup>39</sup>

At the 4320th meeting, on 15 May 2001, the President (United States) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>40</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reiterated its strong support for the Secretary-General's role in helping to implement the Agreements; reiterated its appreciation for the continued deployment of UNMEE both to the troop-contributing countries and to those Member States that had provided UNMEE with additional assets;

Encouraged both parties to continue working towards the full and prompt implementation of the Agreements including cooperation with the Boundary Commission and, in this context, to take concrete confidence-building measures; stressed that the parties must provide free movement and access for UNMEE and its supplies as required throughout the territories of the parties, without any restrictions, including within the Temporary Security Zone and the 15-km wide adjacent area; called on the parties to cooperate fully and expeditiously with UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate;

Further called on the parties to continue to facilitate mine action in coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service;

Noted that the current arms embargo would expire on 16 May 2001;

Urged the parties to ensure that efforts were redirected from weapons procurement and other military activities towards the reconstruction and development of both economies, and regional reconciliation, with a view to achieving stability in the Horn of Africa.

**Decision of 14 September 2001  
(4372nd meeting): resolution 1369 (2001)**

At its 4372nd meeting, on 14 September 2001, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General of 5 September 2001.<sup>41</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed, *inter alia*, that in its first year, UNMEE had seen gradual consolidation of the progress achieved previously. The Temporary Security Zone, established in April 2001, was operational and, despite the fact that the two Governments had not formally accepted the map, their

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<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

<sup>40</sup> S/PRST/2001/14.

<sup>41</sup> The report (S/2001/843) was submitted pursuant to resolution 1344 (2001).

*de facto* respect for it on the ground was a good sign. The majority of internally displaced persons had also returned to their homes. However, freedom of movement for the Mission, including direct flights between Addis Ababa and Asmara, was still lacking, and political developments in both countries had given rise to anxieties about the peace process. Stressing that progress in the peace process could be sustained, he recommended that the mandate of UNMEE be extended for six months.

At the meeting, the President (France) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution,<sup>42</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1369 (2001), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE at the troop and military observer levels authorized by its resolution 1320 (2000) until 15 March 2002;

Called on the parties to cooperate with UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate and to abide scrupulously by the letter and spirit of their agreements, including regarding cooperation with the Boundary Commission and facilitation of its work;

Called on the parties to urgently resolve the outstanding issues in accordance with the Algiers Agreements; further called on the parties, where relevant in cooperation with UNMEE, to explore and pursue a range of confidence-building measures;

Urged the parties to ensure that efforts were redirected from weapons procurement and other military activities towards the reconstruction and development of their economies and encourages both countries to continue and enhance the efforts to improve their relations in order to promote regional peace and security;

Expressed its intention to continue to monitor closely progress by the parties in implementing the provisions of the Algiers Agreements and the requirements of the resolution, and to consider a mission to the two countries before agreeing to a further mandate renewal in order to monitor progress and discuss possible further steps towards reconciliation.

**Decision of 16 January 2002 (4450th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 4450th meeting,<sup>43</sup> on 16 January 2002, the Council included in its agenda the progress report of

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<sup>42</sup> S/2001/862.

<sup>43</sup> At the 4420th and 4421st meetings, both held in private on 16 November 2001, Council members and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea and Ethiopia, respectively, had constructive discussions.

the Secretary-General of 13 December 2001.<sup>44</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that many of the Council's appeals to the parties remained unimplemented. He noted that the absence of mutual confidence between the parties kept the situation volatile, which was particularly important to overcome given the forthcoming decision on border delimitation by the Boundary Commission. He regretted that during the past few months, tensions had risen considerably in the mission area, with each of the two parties accusing the other of building up militarily. He maintained that both parties had also accused UNMEE, without foundation, of pursuing a policy of "appeasement" and negligence vis-à-vis violations. Finally, he again appealed to Eritrea to cooperate fully with UNMEE.

At the meeting, the President (Mauritius) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>45</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reaffirmed the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and Eritrea;

Further reaffirmed its strong support for the comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of the State of Eritrea and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, signed in Algiers on 12 December 2000;<sup>32</sup>

Reiterated its strong support for UNMEE and called on the parties to cooperate fully with UNMEE;

Reiterated its call on Eritrea to disclose the number, strength and disposition of its militia and police inside the Temporary Security Zone and to refrain from deployment close to the southern boundary of the Zone;

Further reiterated its call on Eritrea to conclude the status-of-forces agreement with the Secretary-General;

Expressed its determination to support the practical demarcation of the border; and confirmed its intention to send a mission to the two countries in February 2002.

**Decision of 15 March 2002 (4494th meeting):  
resolution 1398 (2002)**

At its 4485th meeting, on 6 March 2002,<sup>46</sup> the Council included in its agenda the report of the Security Council mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea of 27 February 2002. In its report, the mission reported on

its meetings with the Governments of both countries, as well as with a range of other actors, including non-governmental organizations and religious leaders. It also made a number of recommendations on the mandate of UNMEE and the process for demarcating the border once the Boundary Commission had announced its decision. The mission also called for more trust-building contacts, at both the official and grass-roots level, between the two countries.

At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the head of the Security Council mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia, following which all Council members<sup>47</sup> and the representatives of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Japan, the Netherlands and Spain (on behalf of the European Union)<sup>48</sup> made statements.

The head of the Security Council mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia indicated that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the President of Eritrea had announced that the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, established in accordance with the Algiers Agreements, on the demarcation of their common border would be final and binding. He also commended the parties for having chosen to resolve their differences through an international conflict-solving mechanism. He stated that the mission had impressed upon the parties, *inter alia*, the need to refrain from any kind of unilateral action, which could have seriously destabilizing effects; and the importance of transferring territory and civil authority, as well as population and troop movements, under an agreed framework.<sup>49</sup>

Most of the speakers welcomed the contribution of UNMEE in building confidence between the two parties as well as the public commitments by the two countries to implement the decision of the Boundary Commission. Several delegations pointed out the importance of, *inter alia*, releasing the remaining prisoners of war and civilian detainees; confidence-building measures; and the continuing support of the international community, particularly for demining efforts. A few representatives observed that the work of the Security Council needed to focus on ensuring the

<sup>47</sup> Norway was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>48</sup> Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey aligned themselves with the statement.

<sup>49</sup> See S/PV.4485, pp. 2-4.

<sup>44</sup> S/2001/1194, submitted pursuant to resolution 1369 (2001).

<sup>45</sup> S/PRST/2002/1.

<sup>46</sup> S/2002/205.



implementation of measures on demarcation and delimitation of the border.

The representative of Eritrea expressed concern about the appeal of the Security Council for an orderly transfer of administration and for population returns. He also expressed its caution against unilateral action without urging Ethiopia to respect its treaty obligations. He also complained that the Temporary Security Zone could not be established owing to Ethiopia's refusal to redeploy its troops in violation of the Agreement, which meant that more than 60,000 Eritrean civilians remained stranded in makeshift camps.<sup>50</sup>

The representative of Ethiopia called on Eritrea to sign the status-of-forces agreement and to ensure the freedom of movement of UNMEE. He also believed that the decision of the Boundary Commission needed to be a judicial decision, with full transparency and void of any political considerations or pressures.<sup>51</sup>

At its 4494th meeting, on 15 March 2002, the Council included in its agenda the progress report of the Secretary-General of 8 March 2002.<sup>52</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the delimitation and demarcation of the border would represent an important milestone in the peace process, and that the implementation of the Boundary Commission's final and binding decision would continue to demand statesmanship on the part of the two Governments and their leaders. He recommended that a wide-ranging mechanism aimed at consultation and problem-solving during the implementation of the delimitation decision be established, which could include the parties, UNMEE, guarantors, facilitators and witnesses. He also recommended the extension of the mandate of UNMEE for six months.

At the meeting, the President (Norway) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>53</sup> it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1398 (2000), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE at the troop and military observer levels authorized by its resolution 1320 (2000) until 15 September 2002;

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<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 19-20.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 20-21.

<sup>52</sup> S/2002/245, submitted pursuant to resolution 1369 (2001).

<sup>53</sup> S/2002/266.

Emphasized the importance of ensuring expeditious implementation of the upcoming decision by the Boundary Commission while maintaining stability in all areas affected by the decision, and encouraged the parties to consider further practical ways and means of conducting implementation-related consultations, possibly through appropriate strengthening of the Military Coordination Commission and/or other arrangement with the support of the guarantors, facilitators and witnesses of the Algiers Agreements;

Further emphasized that, in accordance with article 14 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, the security arrangements were to remain in effect, and that, accordingly, arrangements for the separation of forces, as achieved by the Temporary Security Zone, would continue to be of key importance; urged Ethiopia to provide the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre with clarifications to the information already put forward, as promised in this regard.

#### **Decision of 14 August 2002 (4600th meeting): resolution 1430 (2002)**

At its 4600th meeting,<sup>54</sup> on 14 August 2002, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General of 10 July 2002.<sup>55</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed, *inter alia*, that the parties had accepted the delimitation decision of the Boundary Commission as "final and binding" promptly after its announcement on 13 April 2002. He stressed that until the completion of the demarcation of the border and the transfers of territorial control, the security arrangements maintained by UNMEE would remain essential.

At the meeting, the President (United States) drew the attention of the Council to letters dated 5 July and 29 July 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Council,<sup>56</sup> and to a draft resolution;<sup>57</sup> the draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as

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<sup>54</sup> At the 4529th and 4530th meetings, both held in private on 13 May 2002, Council members and the representatives of Eritrea and Ethiopia, respectively, had constructive discussions.

<sup>55</sup> S/2002/744, submitted pursuant to resolution 1398 (2002).

<sup>56</sup> S/2002/732, transmitting a letter dated 28 June 2002 from the Registrar of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission enclosing the decision regarding the request for interpretation, correction and consultation submitted by Ethiopia on 13 May 2002; and S/2002/853, transmitting a letter from the Registrar of the Commission enclosing texts of two Commission Orders to the Parties, of 17 and 18 July 2002.

<sup>57</sup> S/2002/924.

resolution 1430 (2002), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided to adjust the mandate of UNMEE, in order to assist the Boundary Commission in the expeditious and orderly implementation of its Delimitation Decision, to include with immediate effect: (a) demining in key areas to support demarcation, and (b) administrative and logistical support for the Field Offices of the Boundary Commission; endorsed the technical steps for territorial transfers as a broad framework for the process as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report, and decided to review, as necessary, the implications for UNMEE in this regard;

Called on the parties to cooperate with UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate; encouraged the parties to continue cooperating with UNMEE on providing the information and maps required by the Mission for the demining process;

Called on the parties to cooperate fully and promptly with the Boundary Commission; appealed to the parties to exercise restraint, and emphasized that in accordance with article 14 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, the security arrangements were to remain in effect;

Called on the parties to refrain from unilateral troop or population movements; demanded that the parties allow UNMEE full freedom of movement and remove with immediate effect any and all restrictions on, and impediments to the work of, UNMEE and its staff in the discharge of its mandate.

#### **Decisions of 6 September 2002 to 12 September 2003: resolutions 1434 (2002), 1466 (2003) and 1507 (2003) and statement by the President**

At its 4606th, 4719th and 4822nd meetings,<sup>58</sup> the Council, after considering reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>59</sup> adopted unanimously resolutions 1434 (2002), 1466 (2003) and 1507 (2003), by which it extended the mandate of UNMEE for additional periods of six months.

In his reports, the Secretary-General stated, *inter alia*, that the overall situation in the Temporary Security Zone was good, but that the parties should immediately give to UNMEE and the Boundary Commission all necessary cooperation for the expeditious demarcation of the border and improve bilateral relations. By those resolutions, the Council *inter alia*: called on the parties concerned to refrain from troop movements or population movements until the border was delimited and to cooperate fully with UNMEE and the Boundary Commission; committed the Council to frequent reviews of the progress made by the parties in the implementation of their commitments under the Algiers Agreements; and extended the mandate of UNMEE. A complementary statement by the President (Spain) was released at the 4787th meeting, on 17 July 2003.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Held on 6 September 2002, 14 March 2003 and 12 September 2003, respectively.

<sup>59</sup> S/2002/977, S/2003/257 and S/2003/858.

<sup>60</sup> S/PRST/2003/10.

## **14. The situation in Guinea-Bissau**

### **Decision of 29 March 2000 (4122nd meeting): statement by the President**

At its 4121st meeting, on 29 March 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>1</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the presidential elections held on 16 January 2000 had brought to an end the post-conflict transitional period in Guinea-Bissau that had started following the Abuja Accord of 1 November 1998, and had allowed the inauguration of a new pluralist parliament and the formation of a broad-based Government. He

acknowledged that the overall situation in Guinea-Bissau was peaceful and that the humanitarian situation, particularly that of refugees, had noticeably improved. He expressed the expectations that with the electoral process; the investiture of a new President; the inauguration of the new National Assembly; and the formation of a new Government, the transitional institutions deriving from the Abuja Accord had completed their role and that all such extra-constitutional structures would give way to the newly established constitutional institutions. The Secretary-General expressed concern over the public posture of the military and the circulation of small arms in civilian communities, noted the prominence of human rights issues after the election and welcomed the

<sup>1</sup> S/2000/250, submitted pursuant to resolution 1233 (1999).