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34. Security Council mission

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council dispatched five missions to the field. The destinations of the missions included several African countries,¹ as well as Haiti, Yemen and Timor-Leste. The missions included representatives of all members of the Council. Summaries of the briefings are presented below in chronological order and by region. The table at the end of the section lists the meetings held in consideration of the Security Council mission as well as related information, including invitees and speakers.²

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Haiti

On 28 February 2012, the Council heard a briefing by the representative of the United States, leader of the Council's mission to Haiti from 13 to 16 February 2012. She reported on the meetings held with the President, Prime Minister, Members of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies as well as representatives of the private sector and the civil society. The mission saw that Haiti's enormous challenges, related to, among other, security, post-earthquake reconstruction and the political process, required the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders. Regarding the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), she noted that, while many Haitians acknowledged that the mission played a necessary role in maintaining security and stability, they also shared a desire to see the Mission leave eventually with strengthened Haitian institutions assuming its responsibilities. She noted that

¹ Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

² For more information on the composition and reports of the missions, see part VI, sect. II. A. (table 2) with regard to Security Council missions.

the cholera epidemic and allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by some Mission personnel had eroded support and undermined the work of the Mission. On behalf of the Council's mission, she expressed being deeply troubled by these allegations and expected the United Nations to take measures to prevent further incidents and to ensure that those responsible were held accountable.³

Briefing on the Security Council mission to West Africa

On 31 May 2012, the Council heard briefings by the co-leader of the Liberia segment of the mission (United States),⁴ the co-leader of the Côte d'Ivoire segment of the mission (France)⁵ and the co-leader of the Sierra-Leone segment of the mission (South Africa).⁶

The representative of the United States, speaking also on behalf of her co-leader, said that the visit to Liberia on 19 and 20 May was focused on examining the country's efforts on security and rule of law institutions, national reconciliation, the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) as well as on intermission cooperation between UNMIL and the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the security challenges regarding the Liberian-Ivorian border. The members of the mission met with the President of Liberia, the Minister of Justice, the Inspector-General of the police as well as with representatives of the civil society and visited the refugee camp in Zwedru located on the site of the former Prime Timber Production (PTP) company close to the Ivorian border. In view of the transition of UNMIL, the President called for greater international support for Liberia's police to provide security in line with the expected decrease of the United Nations troops, and the Minister of Justice stressed the need to decentralize the delivery of justice with the help of the five planned United Nations peacebuilding-supported justice hubs. She concluded that the members of the mission had witnessed the considerable progress that the people of Liberia had achieved since the end of the civil war in 2003.⁷

The representative of France, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, stated that the primary task of the mission to Côte d'Ivoire on 21 and 22 May was to assess the stabilization process. Thus, the members of the mission met with the President of Côte d'Ivoire, the Prime

³ [S/PV.6724](#), pp. 2-3.

⁴ The other co-leader of the Liberia segment of the mission was Morocco.

⁵ The other co-leader of the Côte d'Ivoire segment of the mission was Togo.

⁶ The other co-leader of the Sierra Leone segment of the mission was the United Kingdom.

⁷ [S/PV.6777](#), pp. 2-3.

Minister as well as other ministers, the Speaker of the National Assembly, parliamentary groups and members of the non-parliamentary opposition. The President and other Government officials stressed that the security sector reform experienced a shortage of resources. Members of the Council noted that the process of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating thousands of ex-combatants remained one of the newest and most complex challenges. He stated that the members of the mission were able to examine the new threats to peace and security that validated the enhanced UNOCI presence in the western part of the country and the increased means to protect civilians including through inter-mission cooperation with UNMIL. He added that the people on the ground expressed their serious concerns about security, including the movement of weapons and the attacks by combatants based in Liberia and about the humanitarian challenges facing refugees, among others. In concluding, he said that the mission had made it possible for the Council to better understand the major priorities for efforts to be made by the United Nations.⁸

The representative of South Africa, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, said that the aim of the mission to Sierra Leone on 23 May 2012 was to encourage continued efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation. The members of the Council met with the President of Sierra Leone as well as with other ministers, the representatives of all ten registered political parties, the National Electoral Commission and civil society, including women's groups. He emphasized that a lot of attention was given to the presidential, parliamentary and local elections that were scheduled to take place on 17 November 2012. In that regard, the President expressed his commitment to a free, fair and transparent process, and the National Electoral Commission declared that good progress⁸ was being made in the preparation for the elections. Furthermore, he noted that the members of the mission were encouraged by the signing, by all political parties, of a declaration agreeing to contest the elections fairly and not to resort to violence. In conclusion, he said that in spite of the problems remaining such as youth unemployment and lack of institutional capacity, Sierra Leone was on the path to building lasting peace.⁹

⁸ Ibid., pp. 3-4.

⁹ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste

On 12 November 2012, the representative of South Africa, the leader of the mission, stated that the purpose of the visit to Timor-Leste from 1 to 7 November 2012 was, among others, to reaffirm the Security Council's commitment to support Timor-Leste. He mentioned that the members of the mission met with various interlocutors in Government, including the President, the Prime Minister, and key ministers, as well as with the National Police, the Defence Forces and non-governmental organizations. While noting the progress achieved, he made reference to some of the challenges faced by the country, such as strengthening State institutions and judicial capacities, addressing past crimes (after the withdrawal of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)), security sector review and socio-economic development. On UNMIT, he recalled resolution [2037 \(2012\) providing for a final extension of its mandate until 31 December 2012](#) and noted that all Timorese stakeholders agreed that UNMIT had "run its course" and should withdraw. There were divergent views, however, on the future United Nations role. In conclusion, he stated that after the withdrawal of UNMIT, the United Nations would continue to provide support to Timorese national institutions in partnership with the Government. However, the key to that new phase would be national ownership of the process.¹⁰

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Yemen

On 7 February 2013, the Council heard briefings by the co-leaders of the mission, the representatives of the United Kingdom and Morocco.

The representative of the United Kingdom reported that the purpose of the mission to Yemen on 27 January 2013 was to evaluate the implementation of resolution [2051 \(2012\)](#) and to assess the progress made on the political transition. During the visit, the members of the mission met with the President, who informed that phase one of the transition plan, involving military restructuring and consolidating gains against Al-Qaida, had been completed and phase two would focus on the national dialogue, leading to elections in February 2014. He also said that during the visit the Military Committee positively assessed the recent decrees to unify command structures and informed that it would focus on reforming the Ministry of

¹⁰ [S/PV.6858](#), pp. 2-4.

Interior. The United Nations country team gave a briefing on the troubling humanitarian situation. In that regard, he said that the 2013 Yemen humanitarian response plan needed additional financial support and the President of Yemen had called on the Friends of Yemen for assistance.¹¹

The representative of Morocco reported on the meetings held with the Prime Minister, the preparatory committee for the national dialogue and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The Prime Minister focused on the obstacles that the Government was facing in the transitional period, especially at the political level. In that respect, he urged the Council to act firmly against people who undermined the political process. On the meeting with the Secretary-General of the GCC and the Group of Friends of Yemen, he stressed that the mission had commended the GCC's political and financial support for Yemen and urged it to continue its efforts. In conclusion, he echoed the co-leader of the mission saying that the mission was successful and noted that, going forward, it was necessary for the Council to monitor the implementation of the next phases of the transition plan.¹²

Briefing on the Security Council mission to Africa

On 21 October 2013, the Council heard briefings by the co-leader of the Democratic Republic of the Congo segment of the mission (Morocco),¹³ the co-leader of the Uganda segment of the mission (United Kingdom),¹⁴ the co-leader of the Ethiopia segment of the mission (Rwanda),¹⁵ and the leader of the Rwanda segment of the mission (United States).

The representative of Morocco, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, emphasized that the message of the mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 4 to 6 October 2013 was focused on the implementation of the commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#), [and on urging all concerned to work to ensure the success of the Kampala negotiations](#). During the visit, the members of the mission held meetings with the highest authorities, including the President, Ministers of Defence, the Interior and Justice. In these meetings, the Council stressed the importance of implementing the reforms

¹¹ [S/PV.6916](#), pp. 2-3.

¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

¹³ The other co-leader of the Democratic Republic of the Congo segment of the mission was France.

¹⁴ The other co-leader of the Uganda segment of the mission was Togo.

¹⁵ The other co-leader of the Addis Ababa segment of the mission was Azerbaijan.

in various areas, such as, security sector, restoration of State authority, democratization, decentralization, national reconciliation and economic governance. While it was underlined by a number of speakers that in order to restore lasting peace in the country the problem raised by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23) needed to be settled, the Council encouraged the continuation of the Kampala negotiations. He also mentioned that the Council's visit made possible to assess the deployment of the Force Intervention Brigade.¹⁶

The representative of the United Kingdom, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, briefed the Council on the visit to Uganda on 7 October 2013. He said that the members of the mission met with the President, Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President spoke about the progress made in the talks in Kampala between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the M-23. The Council members appealed to the President of Uganda to use his influence to ensure the full implementation of the Framework Agreement and continue promoting peace in the region.¹⁷

The representative of Rwanda, speaking also on behalf of his co-leader, stated that the purpose of the mission to Addis Ababa on 8 October 2013 was to strengthen partnership and enhance cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations. In that respect, the seventh joint annual consultative meeting of the two Councils was held on 8 October 2013 and several topics were discussed, as among others, the Great Lakes region, the Sudan and South Sudan, and the Sahel region. At the meeting, agreement was reached between the two Councils on the diagnosis of the crisis, on the partnerships required and on the solution to bring sustainable peace in those conflict-affected countries. Furthermore, a joint communiqué¹⁸ was adopted stressing the need for an enhanced partnership at strategic levels to ensure more effective response to evolving challenges in Africa.¹⁹

The representative of the United States reported on the mission to Rwanda on 7 October 2013 which started with a visit to a demobilization centre in Mutobo where the members of the mission were pleased to ascertain that MONUSCO was playing a significant role, in collaboration with Rwandan authorities, in ensuring that former fighters from the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) could resume their lives. In Kigali, the mission visited the children's wing of the Gisozi genocide memorial, a permanent

¹⁶ [S/PV.7045](#), pp. 2-3.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

¹⁸ [S/2013/611](#).

¹⁹ [S/PV.7045](#), pp. 4-5.

repository of photos and testimonies related to the 1994 genocide, which had opened in 2004. The members of mission also met with Government officials, including the President, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Finance. The status of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region was discussed as well as other matters. In citing the threat of the M-23 (in addition to the FDLR), the mission emphasized the imperative for every country, including Rwanda, to neither tolerate nor provide support to any militia or armed force. It appealed to the President to use his country's influence with the M-23 to promote peace and bring the Kampala talks to a close.²⁰

²⁰ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

Meetings: Security Council mission

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
6724^h 28 February 2012	Briefing by Security Council mission to Haiti (13 to 16 February 2012)	Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2012/82)	Rule 37 Haiti	United States
6777th 31 May 2012	Briefing by Security Council mission to West Africa (18 to 24 May 2012)	Report of the Security Council mission to Haiti, 13-16 February 2012 (S/2012/534) Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2012/344)		France, South Africa and United States
6858th 12 November 2012	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste (1 to 7 November 2012)	Report of the Security Council mission to Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, 18 to 24 May 2012 (S/2014/242) Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2012/793)		South Africa
6916th 7 February 2013	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Yemen (27 January 2013)	Report of the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste, 3 to 6 November 2012 (S/2012/889) Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2013/61) Report of the Security Council mission to Yemen, 27 January 2013 (S/2013/173) Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2013/579) Report of the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia (including the African Union), 3-9 October 2013	Rule 37 Yemen	Morocco and United Kingdom

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
7045th 21 October 2013	Briefing by Security Council mission to Africa (3 to 9 October 2013)	(S/2014/341)		Morocco, Rwanda, United Kingdom and United States