



Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

18th Supplement

2012-2013

Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

10. The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Overview

During the period 2012 to 2013, the Security Council held nine meetings, including two private meetings with the troop-contributing countries,¹ and adopted four resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. The Council continued to focus on political development after the post-electoral crisis of 2011, the modification of targeted sanctions and its implementation aimed at supporting the peace process, as well as the relevant role and mandate of United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).²

The Council twice extended the mandate of UNOCI and the French forces which supported it,³ in accordance with the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General.⁴ The Council also reduced the military component and affirmed its intention to consider a further reduction on the basis of the security conditions and the capacity of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to assume the mission's security responsibilities. In addition, the Council twice renewed and modified the sanctions measures, including extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts.⁵

¹ See [S/PV.6802](#) and [S/PV.6996](#).

² For more information, see part X, sect. I, with regard to the mandate of UNOCI.

³ Resolutions [2062 \(2012\)](#) and [2112 \(2013\)](#).

⁴ See [S/2012/964](#) and [S/2013/377](#).

⁵ Resolutions [2045 \(2012\)](#) and [2101 \(2013\)](#). For more information on the sanction measures concerning Côte d'Ivoire, see part VII, sect. III with regard to measures in accordance with Article 41. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1572 \(2004\)](#) concerning Côte d'Ivoire and the mandate of the Panel of Experts; see part IX, sect. B with regard to committees established under Chapter VII of the Charter.

Briefings on UNOCI and political developments after the 2011 post-electoral crisis

On 26 January 2012, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNOCI, who informed of the significant progress being made in Côte d'Ivoire towards the restoration of normalcy since the end of the 2011 post-electoral crisis. He reported on the stabilizing security situation and stated that displaced people had started to return and the economy was starting to show resilience. He also noted that the legislative elections were held successfully and in relative peace. Despite those positive developments, he stated that significant challenges relating to security and national reconciliation still remained, and that the support provided by UNOCI was essential to assist the Government stabilize the security situation, notably, in the areas of reconstitution and reform of security and rule-of-law institutions; the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; the protection of civilians; facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; national reconciliation, early recovery and the promotion and protection of human rights. He further highlighted the role and activities of UNOCI, particularly in facilitating the conduct of the legislative elections.⁶

In his statement, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire noted the significant progress achieved in a number of areas since the post-electoral crisis, as well as the challenges ahead, namely the stabilization of the security situation, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, humanitarian assistance and national reconciliation. He urged the international community to provide the necessary support to resolve those challenges. With regards to the sanctions regime, he indicated that his Government was in the process of requesting a partial or full lifting of the embargo currently in place.⁷

On 18 July 2012, the Special Representative reported on the ongoing challenges facing the country, particularly with regards to the security and political situations, and on activities undertaken by the Government with UNOCI's support to restore peace and stability. He noted that although the overall security situation had improved, the country continued to face important challenges and threats as it transitioned to a peacebuilding phase. In this respect, he

⁶ [S/PV.6708](#), pp. 2-3.

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-6.

drew attention to the volatile situation at the Côte d'Ivoire – Liberia border and stated that UNOCI was coordinating its activities with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and had adopted an action plan together with UNMIL and the Ivorian and Liberian Governments to enhance cooperation, including a reinforced presence on both sides of the border. Furthermore, he highlighted political dialogue, upcoming local elections and the promotion of a culture of respect of human rights as important elements of national reconciliation.⁸

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire mentioned the recent working visit of the Council to the country. He highlighted the security situation, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, national reconciliation and human rights. He urged the Council not to implement the drawdown of the military component of UNOCI as proposed by the Secretary-General, given the security situation and the need to avoid creating security gaps.⁹

On 17 January 2013 the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative who reported that Côte d'Ivoire was making encouraging progress towards economic growth, peace and stability under the leadership of President Ouattara. At the same time, he cautioned that several urgent structural measures should be implemented in due course especially in the areas of security, political dialogue, justice and reconciliation. He outlined a number of initiatives by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire that had contributed to the easing of political tensions. Furthermore, he informed the Council about the steps taken to strengthen the inter-mission cooperation between UNOCI and UNMIL, as well as cooperation with the United Nations country team in Ghana. He finally urged the international and regional partners, including the United Nations, to continue to support the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in order to consolidate the significant gains achieved and address remaining challenges and root causes of the repeated crises.¹⁰

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire highlighted the progress made by his Government in the past 18 months after the end of the post-electoral crisis. In light of a still fragile security

⁸ [S/PV.6808](#), pp. 2-4.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-7.

¹⁰ [S/PV.6902](#), pp. 2-4.

situation, he expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendation to defer the reduction of the military strength of UNOCI until after the assessment which was to be conducted in early 2013.¹¹

On 16 April 2013, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented the special report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI,¹² which contained the conclusions and recommendations of an assessment mission deployed to Côte d'Ivoire in February 2013. He underscored that Côte d'Ivoire had made progress since the post-electoral crisis and had moved into a new phase of peacebuilding. He, however, expressed concern regarding the fragility of the security situation. In light of the continued challenges and threats, he underlined the necessity for UNOCI to remain in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly with regard to its core priorities, namely, the protection of civilians, supporting security sector reform and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, as well as to help address border security challenges. At the same time he noted that adjustment to UNOCI's structure, strength and priorities as recommended by the Secretary-General were necessary to meet the evolving situation on the ground. He finally stressed the need to bring justice to those accused of having committed serious crimes, regardless of their political affiliation, in order to end the vicious cycle of impunity and to build a culture of responsibility.¹³

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire stated that stabilization of the security situation was a priority, since consolidation of the progress already made depended on it. He informed on measures being taken in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including training and reintegration of former combatants. He further affirmed the commitment of his Government towards national reconciliation and the fight against impunity. Regarding adjustments to the structure and troop strength of UNOCI, he requested that a withdrawal of the Blue Helmets be compensated for by the deployment of qualitative resources, such as surveillance drones in the border area between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.¹⁴

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 5-8.

¹² [S/2013/197](#).

¹³ [S/PV.6947](#), pp. 2-4.

¹⁴ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

On 18 July 2013, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who acknowledged the significant steps taken by the President in stabilizing the security situation, accelerating economic recovery and initiating key reforms. He urged the international community to support Côte d'Ivoire, especially in finding lasting solutions for every former combatant. He also indicated the cooperation between the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to address common border challenges, with the support of UNOCI and UNMIL. In accordance with the decision of the Council, he informed that 850 troops had been repatriated in May following the conclusion of the local elections, and preparations were under way to transfer the military hospital in Abidjan to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Referring to the Secretary-General's proposed benchmarks to measure Côte d'Ivoire's progress towards stability and to undertake transition planning he stated that it was too early to predict when UNOCI would start its transition. He therefore stressed the need to take into account the 2015 presidential and legislative elections, after which the situation could be fully reassessed.¹⁵

The representative of Côte d'Ivoire reiterated the progress made so far, particularly in the areas of security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, justice and human rights, as well as political dialogue and national reconciliation, and highlighted measures taken in these fields. He further expressed the belief that reduction of UNOCI's military police and civilian components should be approached with great care to prevent a security vacuum on the ground.¹⁶

Decisions on extension of the mandate of UNOCI and reduction of its military component

On 26 July 2012, the Security Council adopted resolution [2062 \(2012\)](#), in which it extended the mandate of UNOCI and the authorization of the French Forces until 31 July 2013. The Council decided that protection of civilians should remain the priority for UNOCI, with an added focus on supporting the Government on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform. The Council also endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General for a reduction of the military component of UNOCI.

¹⁵ [S/PV.7004](#), pp. 2-3.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-7.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Côte d’Ivoire, while expressing gratitude for the Council’s ongoing support for peace and democracy in his country, regretted that their request to maintain UNOCI’s original troop strength was not granted by the Council. He stated that they were nevertheless confident that the reconfiguration would not create a security vacuum and further noted that the total number of troops under the resolution was greater than it was during the post-electoral crisis.¹⁷

On 30 July 2013, the Council adopted resolution [2112 \(2013\)](#) by which it extended the mandate of UNOCI and the authorisation of the French Forces until 30 June 2014. It decided to reconfigure UNOCI’s uniformed personnel and affirmed its intention to consider a further reduction based on the evolution of security conditions and capacity of the Government of Côte d’Ivoire to take over UNOCI’s security role. It also decided to reconfigure its military presence to concentrate resources in high-risk areas. The Council also redefined the mandate of UNOCI, in the areas of protection of civilians; addressing remaining security threats and border-related challenges; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and collection of weapons; reconstitution and reform of security institutions; monitoring of the arms embargo; support for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law; supporting humanitarian assistance; public information; redeployment of State administration and the extension of State authority throughout the country; and protection of United Nations personnel.

Following the adoption, the representative of Pakistan expressed concern about the accelerated pace of the drawdown of the military component of UNOCI. In his view, the recommendations of technical assessment missions and military capability studies should be given due weight in Council decisions. He further warned that adopting an accelerated military drawdown might send the wrong signal to those planning to undermine the stability of Côte d’Ivoire.¹⁸

¹⁷ [S/PV.6817](#), pp. 2-4.

¹⁸ [S/PV.7012](#), p. 2.

Consideration of sanction measures

On 26 April 2012, the Security Council adopted resolution [2045 \(2012\)](#), in which it decided, inter alia, to renew and modify the arms embargo, and to renew the financial and travel measures and the measures preventing the importation by any State of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. It also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts until 30 April 2013. In addition, the Council decided to carry out a midterm review of the arms embargo no later than 31 October 2012, with a view to possibly further modifying measures, in accordance with progress achieved in relation to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, national reconciliation and the fight against impunity.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, welcomed the extension of the sanctions regime and provided an update of key developments that had occurred in Côte d'Ivoire since the previous renewal of the sanctions measures in 2011.¹⁹

On 25 April 2013, the Security Council adopted resolution [2101 \(2013\)](#) in which it extended the Côte d'Ivoire sanctions measures and the mandate of the Group of Experts until 30 April 2014. It indicated its readiness to review measures on rough diamonds in light of progress made towards implementation of the Kimberley Process. The Council also welcomed cooperation between the Group of Experts and the Panel of Experts on Liberia.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, reaffirmed the commitment of his country to cooperate fully in the implementation of the sanctions measures. He expressed the hope that the measures in the resolution would strengthen stability in Côte d'Ivoire and could possibly lead to additional modification, partial or complete lifting of the sanctions regime.²⁰

¹⁹ [S/PV.6761](#), pp. 2-4.

²⁰ [S/PV.6953](#), p. 2.

Meetings: the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.6708 26 January 2012	Twenty-ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (S/2011/807*)		Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of UNOCI	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire	
S/PV.6761 26 April 2012	Letter dated 11 April 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/196)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Togo, United Kingdom (S/2012/259)	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2045 (2012) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.6808 18 July 2012	Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2012/506)		Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire	
S/PV.6817 26 July 2012	Thirtieth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2012/506)	Draft resolution submitted by France, United Kingdom, United States (S/2012/581)	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2062 (2012) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.6902 17 January 2013	Thirty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2012/964)		Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire	

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S/PV.6947 16 April 2013	Special report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2013/197)		Côte d'Ivoire	Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Côte d'Ivoire	
S/PV.6953 25 April 2013	Letter dated 12 April 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2013/228)	Draft resolution submitted by France, United Kingdom, United States (S/2013/244)	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2101 (2013) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.7004 18 July 2013	Thirty-second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2013/377)		Côte d'Ivoire	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Côte d'Ivoire	
S/PV.7012 30 July 2013	Thirty-second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2013/377)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Togo, United Kingdom, United States (S/2013/445)	Côte d'Ivoire		Pakistan	Resolution 2112 (2013) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)