

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 28 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Republic of Rwanda during the month of July 2014 (see annex).

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

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

*(Signed)* Eugène-Richard **Gasana**  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 28 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

### **Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Rwanda (July 2014)**

#### **Introduction**

1. In July 2014, the Security Council held 35 meetings, related mainly to conflict-specific situations, but also including thematic debates such as those on peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. Among those meetings, there were 2 open debates, 10 briefings, 15 closed consultations and one private meeting with troop- and police-contributing countries. In addition, the President of the Council convened an informal interactive dialogue on post-conflict peacebuilding, which was held on 15 July. The Council adopted 5 resolutions, 3 presidential statements, 16 statements to the press and 4 elements for the press.

2. In preparing this monthly assessment, Rwanda takes note of the note by the President of 12 December 2012 (S/2012/922), in which members of the Council reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the Council's work. In the note the Council specifically recognized the usefulness of these monthly assessments "in providing as much information as possible on the main aspects of the work of the Council during that month".

#### **Africa**

##### **Burundi**

3. On 10 July, the Council was briefed, in closed consultations, by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi and Head of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, via videoconference from Bujumbura, and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Simonovic.

4. The Special Representative, while noting significant achievements in preparation of the general elections of 2015, including the adoption of the Electoral Code and Code of Conduct, voiced his concern at the political restrictions targeting leaders of the opposition parties. Noting the important role played by countries of the region and by some Council members in support of peace and stability in Burundi, he stressed the need for the Government of Burundi to open the political space, in order to create an atmosphere conducive to peaceful and credible elections in 2015.

5. The Assistant Secretary-General briefed the Council on his visit to Burundi from 25 to 27 June 2014 to assess the human rights situation in the country. He told the Council that there were some positive developments, including the credible work of the national human rights commission and a drastic decrease in the number of extrajudicial killings. However there were worrying trends regarding the growing restrictions of the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association. He noted an increase in political violence, intimidation of political

opponents and disruption of political meetings by Imbonerakure, the youth wing of CNDD-FDD, the ruling party. He also emphasized that social and economic rights in Burundi should be a priority. He informed the Council of the intention of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to reopen stand-alone OHCHR offices in Burundi, pursuant to an agreement of 1995 that OHCHR had with the Government of Burundi. He noted that this intention had been communicated to the Government by letter. He concluded by stressing that a credible and successful electoral process would be an important step for the image of Burundi and its capacity to garner support for its development programmes and transitional justice mechanisms.

6. Council members welcomed progress in the preparation of the 2015 elections, especially the adoption of the Electoral Code and Code of Conduct. However, most of them expressed concern at the limitation of public and civil liberties, as well as politically motivated violence, intimidation of political opponents and disruption of political meetings by Imbonerakure. They strongly urged the Government of Burundi to investigate such human rights violations with a view to holding the perpetrators to account. Some Council members stressed the need for all actors in Burundi to respect its Constitution and act peacefully, and in this regard criticized the illegal extremist activities of some opposition figures. They also cautioned against outside interference in the internal affairs of Burundi.

### **Central African Republic**

7. On 11 July, the Council held a briefing, followed by closed consultations, on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic. The Council was briefed by the Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė (Lithuania), who informed the members that on 9 May the Committee had listed three individuals subject to the measures imposed by paragraphs 30 and 32 of resolution [2134 \(2014\)](#), regretting that impunity remained the main stumbling block on the road of the political transition. She also briefed the Council on the documented incidents of obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian assistance, on the illegal exploitation of natural resources by armed groups, and on disarmament, which has not been successful.

8. During closed consultations, Council members deplored the impunity and violations of the sanctions regime in the Central African Republic, including the arms embargo. They further expressed their appreciation to the Chair of the Committee for her dedication in implementing the sanctions regime and promised their full support to her work.

9. On 16 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, briefed the Council, in closed consultations, on the preparations for the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). He stated that, despite improvement in the capital, Bangui, the security situation remained tense and precarious countrywide, as former Séléka and anti-balaka militias continued killings and retaliations. He welcomed regional efforts to end the crisis, in particular the Forum on National Reconciliation and Political Dialogue, that was slated for 21 to 23 July 2014, aimed at reaching a ceasefire among armed groups and militias.

10. On the deployment of MINUSCA, the Under-Secretary-General stated that, although the Mission would not reach its authorized capacity by the set deadline of

15 September, deployment and logistical preparations were under way. He noted however a number of hurdles delaying the process, mainly poor infrastructure and lack of competent local contractors, which had a negative impact on the transport of equipment.

11. Council members expressed deep concern about the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in the Central African Republic, stressing the need to fight against impunity. They highlighted the importance of inclusive dialogue and national reconciliation and took note of the progress in the deployment of MINUSCA and in the re-hatting process.

12. On 24 July, the Council issued a statement to the press, welcoming the signing of a cessation of hostilities and violence agreement between armed groups in the Central African Republic during the National Reconciliation Forum held in Brazzaville on 23 July 2014. They called on all parties to immediately and fully implement that agreement.

### **Libya**

13. On 17 July, the Council heard a briefing, followed by closed consultations, on the situation in Libya. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, briefed the Council by videoconference from Beirut. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya, Mohamed Abdulaziz, also made a statement.

14. The Special Representative reported on the alarmingly deteriorating situation in Libya, as demonstrated by the confrontation between rival groups in the Libyan capital, which had led to fighting for the control of the International Airport of Tripoli. In Benghazi, military operations led by retired Army General Khalifa Haftar continued, as did assassinations and abductions of civil and political leaders. The Special Representative commented on his decision to reduce and later to withdraw the international staff of UNSMIL because of the increased security risk. He also welcomed the successful holding of elections for the House of Representatives to replace the General National Congress and reported on his inability to convene a meeting of representatives of the major Libyan actors to forge an agreement on issues pertinent to the transition process.

15. In his statement to the Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs provided a detailed account of the situation on the ground, and reported challenges at all levels of society, from the growing population of internally displaced persons, to the conflicts fed by tribal association with armed groups and to inadequate public engagement despite the presence of thousands of civil society organizations. There was also a lack of trust between the public and Government, and among governmental bodies themselves. He added that those challenges could not be tackled by the Government itself, and warned that, if nothing was done by the international community, Libya could become a failed State. The Minister recalled that Chapter VII could provide a legal framework for a more effective and upgraded engagement of the United Nations in Libya. He also called for a United Nations stabilization and institution-building mission that would engage in priority areas, as outlined by Libya, though he clarified that he was not calling for a military intervention.

16. Council members condemned the recent violence in Tripoli, including at the International Airport. They further called on all armed groups and militias to lay down their weapons and engage in a political dialogue. Many Council members expressed their concern about inefficient arms control in Libya. They applauded the elections of 25 June as a step towards establishing democratic institutions, but regretted that the planned national dialogue had not taken place, as a result of a number of key political actors withdrawing their participation. On the reinforcement of the United Nations presence in Libya, some Council members suggested that the Secretariat could propose different options for engagement by the United Nations mission in Libya. Some Council members voiced the idea of convening an international conference on Libya.

17. Following the consultations, the members of the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the recent violence in Libya, including the fighting around Tripoli International Airport, which followed a prolonged pattern of politically motivated and inter-militia violence. They also reiterated the need for all sides to engage in political dialogue and refrain from violence and actions that challenged the stability of the State. Council members welcomed Libya's successful parliamentary elections on 25 June, despite ongoing security challenges, and called on the democratically elected parliament to meet quickly, agree upon a government and urgently seek to progress Libya's democratic transition.

18. On 23 July, the members of the Council issued a statement to the press welcoming the announcement of the final results of Libya's parliamentary elections held on 25 June. They urged the expeditious seating of the Council of Representatives to begin the important work of building political consensus among the Libyan people, agreeing upon a government and urgently seeking to progress Libya's democratic transition. Council members condemned once again the continued violence in Libya, including the fighting around Tripoli International Airport, and reaffirmed that violence and the threat of violence is unacceptable and should not be used to pursue political goals.

## **Mali**

19. On 1 July, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning in the strongest terms the explosion of an improvised explosive device 30 kilometres west of Timbuktu, Mali, on 30 June 2014, in which one peacekeeper, from Burkina Faso, of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali was killed and six other peacekeepers were injured.

20. On 28 July, the Council adopted a presidential statement ([S/PRST/2014/15](#)), in which it welcomed the commencement of the inter-Malian negotiation process in Algiers on 16 July 2014, which aimed to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement ending the crisis in Mali. The Council commended the parties for the constructive dialogue and discussions held in Algiers, with the facilitation of the Government of Algeria, from 16 to 24 July 2014, leading to the consensual adoption of the road map (Feuille de route des négociations dans le cadre du processus d'Alger) by the parties. The Council called on the parties to fully comply with the commitments outlined in the road map, including by engaging in the comprehensive peace talks in Algiers scheduled to begin on 17 August 2014.

**Peace consolidation in West Africa**

21. On 8 July, the Council heard a briefing, followed by closed consultations, on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in the first half of 2014, presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWA, Said Djinnit. The next day, Council members adopted a statement to the press, in which they expressed their full support for the activities of the Special Representative and UNOWA, in particular in terms of coordination of the regional and international strategies in support of peace and development in West Africa and the Sahel region.

**Somalia/Eritrea**

22. On 3 July, the Council issued a statement to the press strongly condemning the assassination, the same day, of Ahmed Mohamud Hayd, a member of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Somalia, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility.

23. On 11 July, the Council was briefed, in closed consultations, by the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea). He indicated that, in its mid-term report, the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea observed that little had changed in the security situation in the southern region of Somalia and that Al-Shabaab continued to engage in its terror campaign. The Monitoring Group had also updated the Committee on clandestine deliveries of weapons and the diversion of arms and ammunition, including potentially to Al-Shabaab. In addition, the Monitoring Group had raised concerns over the misappropriation of public financial resources and the ongoing violations of the charcoal ban. Finally, the Chair reported that he had requested the Government of Eritrea to facilitate another meeting between the Monitoring Group and Eritrean officials to enable the Group to continue its constructive engagement with the Government of Eritrea until the end of the current mandate of the Group.

24. Council members expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Mogadishu, the violation of the charcoal ban and the partial arms embargo, as well as mismanagement of public funds. They pledged support to the Committee Chair and to the Monitoring Group in their efforts to ensure that the sanctions regime in Somalia and Eritrea is fully implemented.

25. Also on 11 July, under “Other matters”, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Nicholas Kay, briefed the Council on the situation in Somalia, following Al-Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu. He indicated that since the launching of joint operations by the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Somalia National Army against Al-Shabaab, the terrorist group had increased its threat with additional attacks in Mogadishu, including against the symbols of Somalia’s institutions, namely the Parliament on 5 July and Villa Somalia (the President’s Office) on 8 July.

26. The Special Representative stressed the importance of a multidimensional approach to address the root causes of the Somalia conflict, while continuing military operations and supporting the Somali National Army. In this regard, he emphasized the need for political progress, including on the establishment of a federal system.

27. After the meeting, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning in the strongest terms the Al-Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu against Villa Somalia, Parliament and members of Parliament in the previous week.

### **Sudan/South Sudan**

28. On 16 July, the Council was briefed, in closed consultations, by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios (via videoconference), and by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos. The Special Envoy briefed the Council on the political and security situation in the Sudan and in South Sudan, including in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. He stated that bilateral relations between the Sudan and South Sudan had registered some progress, adding that the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism had resumed its aerial operation, with no military activity on the border by either side reported. On South Sudan, he deplored the fact that the two political leaders are still recruiting and acquiring weapons, despite their agreement on 10 June to pursue plans for a transitional government within 60 days. Recalling that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was considering taking punitive measures against those who obstruct the peace process, the Special Envoy called on the Security Council to support the efforts of IGAD.

29. For her part, the Under-Secretary-General expressed concern at the humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, informing the Council about the continued denial of humanitarian access, in violation of resolution [2046 \(2012\)](#). She deplored the continuation of the aerial bombardments in the two areas, including reported strikes against hospitals, medical facilities and other civilian sites, as well as the shelling of Kadugli by SPLM-North. She pointed out that those bombardments in the rainy season of May-July would have dire consequences for food security, come the harvest of September. As for the humanitarian situation in South Sudan, she warned that more than one million people were a step away from famine, due to the continued hostilities, food insecurity and lack of access.

30. During the consultations, Council members adopted press elements in which they expressed deep concern about the security and humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile and urged the warring parties to cease hostilities, engage in direct dialogue without preconditions and allow unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, in accordance with resolution [2046 \(2012\)](#). They further expressed deep concern about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in South Sudan, which had put about one million people under threat of famine. They were alarmed by information that both parties were recruiting and acquiring weapons, in violation of their agreement of 10 June, and stood ready to consider appropriate measures against those who did not implement their commitment to peace in South Sudan.

31. On 25 July, the Council issued a statement to the press strongly condemning the series of attacks launched on 20 July by armed youth and opposition forces, and the attacks on 23 July by Government of South Sudan forces, as they fought for control of Nassir Town, Upper Nile State in South Sudan.

32. On 25 July, the Council issued a statement to the press expressing grave concern about the catastrophic food insecurity situation in South Sudan, currently the worst in the world. They further expressed deep alarm that the crisis in South Sudan could soon reach the threshold of famine as a result of continued conflict,

civilian targeting and displacement. The members of the Council urged all Member States to swiftly fulfil their pledges and to increase their commitments. They called upon all parties to respect and protect civilian populations and to expedite safe and unhindered humanitarian access.

## **Asia**

### **Afghanistan**

33. On 15 July, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning in the strongest terms the suicide attack on 15 July in Paktika, Afghanistan, which caused many deaths and injuries to civilians, including children, as well as the attack in Kabul on the same day, which caused a number of deaths and injuries to civilians, for which the Taliban have claimed responsibility.

## **Europe**

### **Cyprus**

34. On 23 July, the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of UNFICYP and Acting Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Lisa Buttenheim, briefed the Council, by videoconference from Nicosia.

35. On 24 July, the Council held consultations on the question of Cyprus. The Special Representative and Acting Special Adviser, briefing the Council via videoconference from Nicosia, recalled that 2014 marks the fiftieth anniversary of UNFICYP and that during that time the Force had ensured that civilians in and around the buffer zone were able to carry out their normal activities. She described the situation as generally calm and stable but regretted some violations and incidents in the buffer zone. She further welcomed the agreement on the Joint Declaration signed on 11 February 2014 by the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Council members called on all parties concerned to respect the authority of UNFICYP within the buffer zone and expressed support for renewed negotiations to resolve the Cyprus question.

36. On 30 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2168 \(2014\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP until 31 January 2015.

### **Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations (S/2014/136)**

37. On 18 July, the Council heard an emergency briefing, following the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in the east of Ukraine. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman. Council members, including the representatives of Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which had lost nationals in the crash, delivered statements. Representatives of non-Council members that lost nationals in the crash, including Malaysia, the Netherlands, Indonesia, the Philippines, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand and Viet Nam, also made statements, as did the representative of Ukraine.

38. The Under-Secretary-General reported that the United Nations had no independent verification of the cause of the crash, adding however that the Secretary-General was alarmed at what seemed to be credible reports suggesting that a sophisticated surface-to-air missile had been used to down the aircraft. He said that the Secretary-General had called for a full and transparent international investigation. The Under-Secretary-General noted that this incident was a reminder of how dire the situation in eastern Ukraine had become, as it had now affected countries and families well beyond Ukraine's borders. He informed the Council of the intensive diplomatic efforts undertaken with a view to de-escalating the crisis and expressed concern over the situation on and around the border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. He stressed that there was an urgent need for a sustainable ceasefire in eastern Ukraine to be agreed and fully observed by all parties concerned, as well as to secure and effectively control the Russian-Ukrainian border. He reiterated the Secretary-General's call to armed groups to immediately disarm and engage in direct dialogue with the Government of Ukraine. He also urged the Ukrainian authorities to act with maximum restraint and ensure the protection of civilians. He added that the joint Berlin Declaration agreed upon on 2 July by the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, Germany, France and Ukraine — similar to the Geneva statement of 17 April — provided a clear and constructive way forward for de-escalating the crisis.

39. Council members expressed sympathy and deep condolences to the families and the Governments of the victims. They condemned the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, demanded a full, thorough, transparent and independent international investigation and stressed the need to bring those responsible to account. Most Council members called for immediate access by the investigators to the crash site, to determine the cause of the incident and avoid tampering with the evidence. The Council issued a statement to the press.

40. On 21 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2166 \(2014\)](#), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, resulting in the tragic loss of 298 lives. Two Council members were represented at the ministerial level — Australia, by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop; and Luxembourg, by Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn. The Netherlands, which lost 196 nationals on MH17, was represented by Foreign Minister Franciscus Timmermans. In the resolution the Council supported efforts to establish a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines. It recognized efforts by Ukraine, working in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other international experts, to institute an international investigation of the incident, demanded that the armed groups in control of the crash site and the surrounding area refrain from any actions that might compromise the integrity of the crash site, and further demanded that all military activities be immediately ceased in the immediate area surrounding the crash site.

## **Middle East**

### **The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question**

41. On 1 July, the Council issued a statement to the press, expressing profound outrage at and condemning in the strongest terms the killing of three teenagers, two Israelis and one United States citizen, whose bodies were discovered near the city of Hebron on 30 June.

42. On 2 July, the Council issued a statement to the press, expressing profound sorrow and condemning in the strongest terms the abduction and killing of a Palestinian teenager from East Jerusalem on 2 July.

43. On 10 July, the Council held an emergency meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. In his briefing, the Secretary-General informed members about his contacts with the leaders of the region and called on the international community to accelerate efforts to immediately halt the escalation. He stated his alarm over the rising toll of Palestinian civilians. The Secretary-General said that the international community faced the risk of an all-out escalation in Israel and Gaza, pointing to a barrage of more than 500 rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel and more than 500 air strikes from Israel on Gaza. He called on all actors to exercise maximum restraint and respect international humanitarian law. He promised to continue his efforts to bridge gaps and revive negotiations. The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine and the Permanent Representative of Israel also delivered statements.

44. During ensuing consultations, Council members reiterated their outrage at the abduction and killing of the three Israeli teenagers and the Palestinian teenager. Most of them condemned the launch of rocket fire by Hamas on several cities of Israel, as well as the aerial strikes by Israel, which they said constituted an excessive use of force. Council members expressed concern at the risk of further escalation of violence and called on all sides to abide by the ceasefire of November 2012 in Gaza. They further called for the urgent resumption of the peace process.

45. On 12 July, the Council issued a statement to the press, expressing serious concern regarding the crisis related to Gaza and the protection and welfare of civilians on both sides. Council members called for de-escalation of the situation, restoration of calm, and reinstatement of the ceasefire of November 2012. They also expressed their support for the resumption of direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians with the aim of achieving a comprehensive peace agreement based on the two-State solution.

46. On 18 July, the Council heard an emergency briefing, following the launch of ground operations by Israel Defense Forces into Gaza. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Both the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine and the Permanent Representative of Israel delivered statements.

47. In his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General indicated that amid an escalation of violence in Gaza, the Secretary-General would visit the region on Saturday 20 July to express solidarity with Israelis and Palestinians, and to help bolster regional and international efforts for a solution. He stressed that Israel has legitimate security concerns, condemned the indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza into Israel, but expressed concern at the heavy Israeli response. He recalled that the

Secretary-General urged the parties to do their utmost to protect civilians and United Nations premises and staff, and to ensure that humanitarian assistance would reach all those in need. He noted that the temporary humanitarian pause had raised hopes for a long-term ceasefire, as brokered by the Government of Egypt. He reiterated the importance of addressing the root causes of the current escalation, with support to durable political, security, institutional and socioeconomic progress that would stabilize Gaza.

48. Council members expressed deep concern about the dire humanitarian situation, as a result of the current crisis in Gaza. They called for a ceasefire between the parties, as proposed by Egypt, and urged them to return to the negotiating table, aiming at a permanent peace and a two-State solution. Most Council members condemned the indiscriminate firing of rockets into Israel by Hamas and some of them condemned the Israeli aggression into Gaza with indiscriminate attacks and use of excessive force.

49. On 20 July, the Council convened an emergency meeting on the situation in Gaza, and was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. He indicated that the situation in Gaza continued to deteriorate, as over 430 people in Gaza had been killed and 83,000 people displaced, while 18 Israeli soldiers and two Israel civilians had lost their lives in the hostilities. He said that the Secretary-General, who had travelled to the region, called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and urged the parties to return to the negotiating table. The Under-Secretary-General further urged both sides to respect international humanitarian law and called on the international community to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which was running short by \$60 million for medical and non-food items.

50. During the ensuing discussion, Council members adopted elements for the press, in which they expressed serious concern at the escalation of violence in the situation related to Gaza, called for respect of international humanitarian law, including protection of civilians, emphasized the need to improve the humanitarian situation, including through humanitarian pauses, expressed serious concern about the growing number of casualties, called for an immediate cessation of hostilities based on a return to the ceasefire agreement of November 2012 and welcomed the efforts of Egypt to broker a ceasefire, as well as those of the Secretary-General.

51. On 22 July, the Council convened its quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East. The Secretary-General, briefing the Council via videoconference from Ramallah, strongly condemned the indiscriminate rocket fire launched by Hamas and Islamic Jihad from Gaza into Israel, and was also alarmed by Israel's heavy response and the corresponding high civilian death toll. The Secretary-General, who was visiting the region, indicated that at every stop in the Middle East he carried a three-part message that included a call for Israelis and Palestinians to stop the fighting, return to dialogue and addressing the underlying root causes of the cycles of violence that continue to plague them. He stressed that the international community must address those underlying issues including mutual recognition, occupation, despair, and the denial of dignity so that people did not feel they had to resort to violence as a means of expressing their grievances.

52. Council and non-Council members voiced their concern on the escalation of the crisis related to Gaza. They reiterated their call for an immediate ceasefire and further supported the Egypt-brokered ceasefire. Many members condemned the

indiscriminate rocket fire by Hamas into Israel and expressed concern for the disproportionate response by Israel. They called on all parties to protect civilians and abide by international humanitarian and human rights law. Some members condemned the aggression of Israel against the Palestinian people and blamed the Security Council for its inaction to address the situation. Most participants also mentioned the conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, as well as the situation in Lebanon.

53. On 28 July, the Council adopted a presidential statement ([S/PRST/2014/13](#)), in which it expressed grave concern regarding the deterioration in the situation as a result of the crisis related to Gaza and the loss of civilian lives and casualties, called for full respect of international humanitarian law, including the protection of the civilian population, expressed strong support for the call by international partners and the Secretary-General for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire, allowing for the delivery of urgently needed assistance, and urged all parties to accept and fully implement the humanitarian ceasefire into the Eid period and beyond.

54. On 31 July, the Council held an emergency briefing on the situation related to Gaza. In her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator stated, via videoconference, that an already volatile situation in Gaza had been exacerbated by 24 days of conflict, with thousands of victims, casualties and internally displaced people. She further regretted that over 103 United Nations facilities had come under attack including an UNWRA school hosting over 3,300 displaced, adding that there could be no justification for failing to respect the inviolability of United Nations operations, personnel and premises. She stressed that, until a longer-term ceasefire was agreed, humanitarian actors needed more humanitarian pauses to enable them to reach those in need. She called on the Government of Israel, Hamas and other militant groups to comply with their international legal obligations, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

55. The Commissioner General of UNRWA, Pierre Krähenbühl, speaking by telephone from Gaza city, reiterated his condemnation of the attack against an elementary girls' school in Jabalya, which was serving as a United Nations emergency shelter. He called for the immediate launching of a transparent investigation by Israel, and further called on all parties to respect the sanctity of United Nations premises. He also advised members that rockets belonging to armed groups in Gaza had been found in empty UNRWA facilities, and condemned the placement of weapons in UNRWA schools. However, he made it clear that those discoveries did not in any way justify attacks on UNRWA facilities, and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

56. In ensuing consultations, Council members expressed deep concern over the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. They were particularly alarmed at the growing numbers of deaths during the conflict, amounting to more than 1,300, mainly civilians, including more than 250 children. They condemned shelling of UNRWA facilities and were alarmed by the discovery of rockets in some of those facilities. During the meeting, Council members adopted elements for the press, expressing their grave disappointment that the messages in the presidential statement of 28 July had not been heeded. They called for an immediate unconditional humanitarian ceasefire that could lead to a sustainable ceasefire based upon the Egyptian proposal.

## Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

57. On 7 July, the Council held consultations on the Syrian Arab Republic and was briefed, via videoconference, by the Special Coordinator, Sigrid Kaag, on the activities of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the basis of the monthly report of the Director-General of OPCW and the letter dated 26 June from the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) ([S/2014/444](#)).

58. The Special Coordinator indicated that all the chemical weapon materials declared by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had been either totally removed from Syrian territory or destroyed. Despite this achievement, the Special Coordinator pointed out the remaining tasks, mainly the destruction of the chemicals at sea and at land-based facilities, the destruction of 12 chemical weapon production facilities and the conclusion of ongoing consultations regarding possible discrepancies in the original declaration submitted by the Syrian Government. She stated that in the following months discussions would continue between the Joint Mission and OPCW, with a view to establishing an appropriate successor arrangement to the Joint Mission, which would enable any residual in-country verification and other activities that might be required.

59. In their statements, Council members commended the Special Coordinator and her team for the landmark achievement of removing all the declared chemical weapon materials under a challenging environment. Regarding the destruction of the 12 chemical weapon production facilities, most Council members stressed that, once the modalities were approved by the OPCW Executive Council, the Syrian Government should fulfil its obligations in dismantling them. As for the technical discrepancies in the original declaration, most Council members noted that the related technical work to clarify them should continue.

60. With regard to the successor arrangement to the Joint Mission, most Council members supported the continuation of the Mission's activities, until the Council was satisfied that no more chemical materials remained in the Syrian Arab Republic. However, one member indicated that the Joint Mission should start phasing out its activities so that, by October 2014, the remaining tasks could be handled at a technical level by the OPCW secretariat and that the Security Council should discontinue monthly meetings on Syrian chemical weapons.

61. Regarding the recent report of the fact-finding mission on the use of toxic materials in the Syrian Arab Republic, some Council members accused the Syrian Government of using toxic gas, including chlorine, and some condemned the attack against members of the Mission. They also stressed the need for all parties in the country to grant members of the Mission safe and secure access. Some delegations expressed concern over the Joint Mission's finding that two cylinders found by the Syrian authorities in an opposition-held area contained sarin. Many members emphasized the need to end impunity and to hold accountable those who used chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

62. On 14 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#), by which it decided that the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners were authorized to use routes across conflict lines and the

border crossings of Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al-Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha, in addition to those already in use, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance would reach people in need throughout the Syrian Arab Republic through the most direct routes. The Council also decided to establish a monitoring mechanism to monitor the loading of all humanitarian relief consignments, in order to confirm the humanitarian nature of those relief consignments.

63. On 30 July, the Council held its monthly closed consultations on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Council on the fifth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2139 \(2014\)](#) ([S/2014/525](#)).

64. In her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General, who was pleased by the adoption of resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#), indicated that, on 24 July, following the adoption of that resolution, a first convoy of humanitarian aid had crossed into the Syrian Arab Republic from Turkey through the Bab al-Salam border crossing. She blamed the Syrian Government for its continued denial of the delivery of medical equipment, including injectable medicines and surgical equipment, to hard-to-reach areas, in violation of international humanitarian law. She further stressed that the indiscriminate aerial bombings by Government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition, extremist and designated terrorist groups continued to result in deaths, injuries and displacement of civilians. She urged all parties to comply with Council decisions in that regard.

65. Council members welcomed the first steps in the implementation of resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#), as evidenced by the first humanitarian delivery through the Bab al-Salam border crossing. However, they remained deeply concerned at the continuing hostilities, including the bombing of civilians, the use of barrel bombs and shelling in populated areas. They called on the parties to allow unhindered access to the population in need. Some noted that the United Nations guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance must be respected.

### **Lebanon**

66. On 9 July, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Derek Plumbly, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General ([S/2014/438](#)).

67. The Special Coordinator informed the Council that the situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had remained generally calm and stable, despite the incident of 14 March 2014, when the Israel Defense Forces had conducted heavy artillery shelling into Lebanon and directed tank fire at two houses in Kafr Killa in response to a roadside explosion that hit their patrol in the area of Shab'a Farms, south of the Blue Line. He further deplored the continued threat posed by the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic to Lebanon's security and stability. For his part, the Assistant Secretary-General echoed the Special Coordinator's assessment of the security situation along the Blue Line and hailed the excellent collaboration and coordination between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces, which included training and joint exercises.

68. Members of the Council took note of the relative calm that had prevailed in the UNIFIL area of operations over the past four months but acknowledged that this calm was very fragile. They stressed the need for all parties to focus on all outstanding issues in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and urged them to commit themselves to Lebanon's policy of dissociation, enshrined in the Baabda Declaration, and to withdraw from fighting in the Syrian Arab Republic.

### **Iraq**

69. On 21 July, the Council issued a statement to the press, expressing deep concern over reports of threats against religious and ethnic minorities in Mosul and other parts of Iraq controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), including the ultimatum to Christians to either leave the city, stay and pay a tribute, convert to Islam, or face imminent execution.

70. On 23 July, the Council heard a briefing, followed by consultations, on the situation in Iraq. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Nickolay Mladenov, as well as the Permanent Representative of Iraq, briefed the Council. The Special Representative, speaking via videoconference from Baghdad, reported that ISIL was now in control of about one third of the country, committing gross violations of human rights, including persecution of Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities. He emphasized that the situation in Iraq posed a complex threat to the entire region and beyond and called on the Security Council to demand the cessation of hostilities and to hold perpetrators to account.

71. The Special Representative further stated that the solution to the crisis would not be military and would require addressing the root causes of violence and implementing a political and social package that addressed the concerns of all communities. He also briefed the Council on recent political developments in Baghdad, including the election of the Parliament and of its Speaker and Deputy Speaker, as well as on Iraq-Kuwait relations.

72. Council members expressed concern at the security situation in Iraq, as well as its territorial integrity, and condemned ISIL over its hostilities against the Government and its gross violations of human rights, including persecutions of Christians and other minorities. Some of them linked the deterioration of the situation in Iraq with the conflict in Syria and called on all parties to stop any actions that could support terrorist activities. They welcomed the recent election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives, urging the Iraqi politicians to elect the President and the Prime Minister and to form an inclusive government as soon as possible. They all supported the extension of UNAMI for an additional year.

73. On 30 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2169 (2014), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMI until 31 July 2015.

### **Yemen**

74. On 9 July, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, briefed the Council, under "Other matters", on the situation in Yemen. He indicated to the Council that Houthis had seized the town of Amran, to the north of the capital, Sana'a, where they had caused a high number of casualties. He said that,

reportedly, the former members of the regime, including former President Saleh, supported the group, which aimed at undermining the transitional government led by President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour. The Special Adviser urged the Council to take action by sending a strong message to the parties, mainly to the spoilers of the transitional process, including the members of the former regime, as well as to the Houthis.

75. On 11 July, the Council issued a statement to the press, expressing grave concern about the serious deterioration of the security situation in Yemen in the light of the ongoing violence in Amran. The members of the Council demanded that the Houthis, all armed groups and parties involved in the violence withdraw and relinquish control of Amran and hand over weapons and ammunition pillaged in Amran to the national authorities loyal to the government. They recalled resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#), by which the Council introduced targeted sanctions measures against spoilers, and urged the Panel of Experts to look into them and present expeditiously relevant recommendations to the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#).

## **Thematic and other issues**

### **Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

76. On 17 July, the Council was briefed, under "Other matters", on the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) informed the Council that, since February 2014, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had engaged in six rounds of ballistic missile launches, firing 10 Scud-class short-range ballistic missiles and two Nodong mid-range ballistic missiles into the seas surrounding the Korean peninsula. He added that during the same period the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had also fired around 100 other short-range missiles, rockets and artillery shells. He noted that those launches heightened tensions for the Korean peninsula and North-East Asia in its entirety, and also posed a significant threat to international aviation and maritime navigation, as well as to civilian safety.

77. Council members agreed on elements for the press in which they condemned the launch of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a violation of Security Council resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#), [1874 \(2009\)](#), [2087 \(2013\)](#) and [2094 \(2013\)](#), and urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with the relevant Council resolutions. During the discussion, many Council members underlined that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's provocations undermined the peace and security of the region and that such provocations were not acceptable. Some members stressed the need for all parties concerned to exercise restraint, including military activities, and create favourable conditions for the resumption of the six-party talks.

### **Peacekeeping**

78. On 28 July, the Council convened an open debate, under the item entitled "United Nations peacekeeping operations", on the theme "The United Nations and regional partnership and its evolution", a topic proposed by Rwanda. In his introductory remarks, the Secretary-General told the Council that partnerships with regional organizations should continue to be based on the comparative strengths of

each group. He stressed that it was important to draw lessons learned from recent experiences throughout Africa, as the United Nations continues to work to enhance the predictability and sustainability of African-led peace support operations.

79. Also advocating for increased partnerships with regional organizations, the Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service, Maciej Popowski, stated that regional organizations are crucial for a successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. For his part, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Tété António, urged Council members to draw on previous deliberations about partnerships, including on the funding of African Union operations. On dynamic partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, he reiterated that, while significant progress had been made, and coordination was constantly being bolstered, more innovation was needed.

80. Council and non-Council members spoke of the need for enhanced partnerships among the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and other partners, acknowledging the many comparative advantages that regional and subregional organizations bring to international peacekeeping efforts. Points that were equally addressed included sustained and predictable financing, the need for proactive responses, and strengthening capacity-building and coordination.

81. During the open debate, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2167 \(2014\)](#), introduced by Rwanda, in which it expressed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as basic principles of peacekeeping and international law. In the resolution the Council stressed the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a Security Council mandate, while reiterating that regional organizations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical, and other resources for their organizations. It further requested the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the African Union Commission and the European Union, to produce, not later than 31 March 2015, an assessment report and recommendations on the progress of the partnerships between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations in peacekeeping operations.

### **Post-conflict peacebuilding**

82. On 15 July, the Council heard a briefing on “Post-conflict peacebuilding”, in order to discuss the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its seventh session ([S/2014/67](#)). The Permanent Representative of Croatia and former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Vladimir Drobnyak, presented the report, followed by the current Chair of the Commission, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil.

83. The Permanent Representative of Croatia indicated that the report focused on three main functions, namely, advocacy and sustaining attention; resource mobilization; and forging coherence, adding that particular emphasis had been placed on ways to capitalize on the experience and capacities of Commission members in support to the objectives of the countries on its agenda. He also reported significant progress in identifying practical modalities for informal interaction between the Commission and the Security Council, including field visits and periodic consideration of mission mandates.

84. As the current Chair of the Commission, the Permanent Representative of Brazil stated that the recent crises in the Central African Republic and South Sudan were painful reminders that efforts to prevent relapse into conflict remained insufficient and that the tools were not fully adequate. He went on to say that the Commission, reinforced by the timely and strategic interventions of the Peacebuilding Fund, had continued to work intensively towards stabilization in countries on the Commission's agenda and in other country situations. Furthermore, he indicated that national ownership of all efforts and regional engagement were key political principles of peacebuilding, stressing that experience had shown the importance of programmatic interventions, with an emphasis on building institutions that strengthened the capacity of societies to manage tensions, deliver services, protect human rights and facilitate access to justice.

85. Council members commended the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and its present and former leadership. They highlighted the importance of the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture, explaining that the review would present the opportunity to critically assess the recommendations emanating from the 2010 review, which would put the Commission into a better strategic position to discharge its mandate. Council members underscored the need for sustainable solutions that address the root causes of conflict, taking into account the regional dimension. They recalled the importance of national ownership in peacebuilding, and noted that a comprehensive approach would help to prevent a recurrence of violence. In this regard, they underlined the Commission's advisory role as a unique platform to facilitate coherence and complementarity to the Council's peacebuilding efforts.

86. Some Council members agreed that institutional capacity-building and women's involvement were key components in post-conflict recovery, commending the United Nations system for including gender mainstreaming as one of the pillars in peacebuilding activities, as well as justice and reconciliation, including through transitional justice, as important pillars in post-conflict peacebuilding. Others underlined that post-conflict peacebuilding activities must mainly be focused on addressing economic and social issues and called, in this regard, for a clear division of labour of all structures involved.

87. During a subsequent informal interactive dialogue, held also on 15 July, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Chairs of country-specific configurations, representatives of countries on the Commission's agenda, the Chair of the Commission's Working Group on Lessons Learned and the Peacebuilding Support Office were invited to share views on the Peacebuilding Commission. The informal meeting focused on the Commission's advisory function to the Security Council, particularly the progress in focusing the content and evolving practice in the modality of interaction, as well as on how to address the recurring relapse into conflict.

#### **Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**

88. On 28 July, the Council adopted a presidential statement ([S/PRST/2014/14](#)), in which it expressed grave concern over the reports of the access to and seizure of oilfields and pipelines in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq by terrorist groups listed by the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#) and [1989 \(2011\)](#), namely "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" and "Jabhat Al-Nusra", and condemned any engagement in direct or indirect trade of oil from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq involving terrorist groups.

**Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)**

89. On 30 July, the Council held a briefing on the item “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)” (wrap-up session). The Council President invited Council members to critically assess the Security Council’s work during the month of July, as well as proposing recommendations on how the Council could improve its efficiency and effectiveness, particularly in dealing with the current country-specific situations.

90. Concerning the substance of the issues addressed by the Council during July, the Middle East (including the Palestinian question), Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Libya, as well as regional partnerships in peacekeeping, featured prominently.

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