

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 24 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan 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 Azerbaijan in October 2013 (see annex). The report has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

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

(Signed) Agshin Mehdiyev
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Azerbaijan

(October 2013)

I. Introduction

1. During the month of October 2013, the Security Council held 15 public meetings, 1 private meeting and 12 closed consultations. The Council adopted four resolutions and two presidential statements and issued six statements to the press.

II. Africa

Central African Republic

2. On 10 October, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2121 \(2013\)](#) in which, expressing deep concern over the total breakdown in law and order in the Central African Republic and the consequences of instability in the country for the region, it decided to reinforce the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) in five key areas: support for the implementation of the transition process; support for conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance; support for stabilization of the security situation; promotion and protection of human rights; and coordination of international actors. The Council demanded the swift implementation of transitional arrangements leading to free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections 18 months after the start of the transition. It underscored the primary duty of authorities in the Central African Republic to protect the population and ensure the unity of the national territory. It reiterated its condemnation of the seizure of power by the Séléka coalition on 24 March and the associated violence and looting. It also called upon all concerned countries and subregional and regional organizations to enhance their coordination, through the African Union Regional Task Force, in addressing the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army.

3. The Security Council looked forward to the swift establishment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and encouraged countries in the region and other African countries to participate in the establishment of MISCA; Member States to provide timely and effective support to MISCA; and the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to expedite their efforts towards the effective transition from the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in Central African Republic (MICOPAX) to MISCA. In that regard, it requested the Secretary-General and BINUCA to establish appropriate cooperation mechanisms with ECCAS and the African Union in order to facilitate that process and expressed its intention to consider options for support to MISCA, including the possible option of a transformation of MISCA into a United Nations peacekeeping operation, subject to appropriate conditions on the ground.

4. Speaking after the adoption, the representative of the Central African Republic welcomed the adoption of resolution [2121 \(2013\)](#) which, in his words, represented a fresh start for the people of his country and restored hope for the future.

Côte d'Ivoire

5. On 24 October, the Security Council heard a briefing in closed consultations from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Gert Rosenthal, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1572 \(2004\)](#) concerning Côte d'Ivoire. He summarized the main conclusions contained in the midterm report of the Group of Experts, as well as the discussion of the Group's findings during the Committee's informal consultations on 11 October. He further informed the Council that the Committee had considered the recommendations contained in the midterm report, and agreed to take action on them.

6. The members of the Security Council commended the Group for the timely submission of a comprehensive and detailed midterm report. Several Council members expressed views on some progress in the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. Other members voiced concern about the challenges ahead.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

7. From 3 to 9 October, the Security Council undertook a mission to Africa's Great Lakes region, during which it visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia. The Democratic Republic of the Congo leg of the mission was co-led by Morocco and France; the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland led the Rwanda and Uganda legs respectively, and the Ethiopia leg was co-led by Azerbaijan and Rwanda. The overall purpose of the mission was to express the Council's strong support for the improvement of relations among the countries of the region and to encourage them to continue reinforcing cooperation in all fields, especially on political, economic and security issues, in order to guarantee the long-term stabilization of the Great Lakes region; to reiterate the Council's support for the implementation of the commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and to call upon all signatories to implement promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments; to reiterate that all parties should contribute to stabilizing the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to encourage all countries of the region to work together, and recall the importance of full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#), as a means to stabilize the situation.

8. On 21 October, the Security Council heard a briefing at an open meeting on the outcomes of the Security Council mission to Africa. The representatives of Morocco, the United States, the United Kingdom and Rwanda, as respective leads or co-leads of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia legs of the mission, provided detailed information on the meetings and discussions with the high-level officials of the countries visited and representatives of humanitarian organizations and civil society, and on the 7th annual joint consultative meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the members of the Security Council, held in Addis Ababa on 8 October 2013.

9. On 21 October, the Security Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Martin Kobler, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson. The briefers introduced respectively the reports of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO ([S/2013/581](#)) and on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region ([S/2013/569](#)).

10. In his briefing to the Security Council via video-teleconference from Kampala, where he attended as an observer of the talks between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the 23 March Movement (M23), Special Representative Kobler informed the Council on the state of the talks and the ongoing efforts to bring them to an end by concluding a comprehensive agreement to end the rebellion, disband M23 and allow its transformation into a political movement within the limits of the Constitution and laws of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to him, despite all efforts, no progress had been achieved in the talks. Noting that there had been agreement on most of the paragraphs under discussion in Kampala, he expressed hope that the parties would resolve the outstanding issues. He also spoke of a considerable military build-up on both sides, the firing of shots by M23 on unarmed United Nations helicopters and peacekeepers and the Movement's reinforcement of its position on the frontlines in south Goma. He underlined that M23 was not the only concern for MONUSCO. Other armed groups, including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, and many Mayi-Mayi groups that terrorized the population in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo also posed a significant threat to civilians and to the State authority. Saying that MONUSCO was evolving in order to fully respond to the mandate given in resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#), he outlined his intention to restructure the Mission along three lines, to include a strengthened operational presence in the east; reconsider the Mission's presence in areas not affected by armed conflict; and to recognize that the future of the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo belonged to the country team.

11. Special Envoy Robinson briefed the Council via video-teleconference from Addis Ababa, saying that she had arrived there after four days in Kampala, where she had led a team of envoys from the United Nations, the African Union, the United States and the European Union to the latest round of talks between M23 and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Discussing the Kampala Dialogue, she said that negotiations had gained speed on 18 October and, a day later, the parties had reached consensus on most of the articles of the draft agreement. The parties had failed to agree on amnesty, disarmament and integration of M23. She stressed that any agreement in Kampala should be based on the principles of sustainability, accountability and no amnesty for the perpetrators of crimes against humanity or war crimes. The conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue would pave the way for the end of the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. She would continue to work with regional Governments on measures to enable the reduction of the strength of armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and would coordinate international support for the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agenda.

12. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo urged regional States to implement their commitments under the Framework and not to interfere in the domestic affairs of other States, not to support armed groups and to respect States' sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said that the security and humanitarian situation was volatile in many areas of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo because of both national and foreign "spoilers", including, inter alia, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Lord's Resistance Army, the Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda and Mayi-Mayi. He expressed his country's commitment to the Kampala Dialogue and outlined measures taken by the Government to advance political, security and socioeconomic reforms.

13. In closed consultations that followed, the members of the Security Council expressed their full support for the activities of Special Representative Kobler and MONUSCO and of Special Envoy Robinson. They stressed that there was no alternative to the political solution of the crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and called for the speedy conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue, and for the timely implementation of national, regional and international commitments under the Framework. In that regard, they underlined that an outcome should lead to the complete disarmament and disbandment of M23 and should not grant amnesty for the perpetrators of serious crimes. They also underscored the importance of addressing threats posed by other armed groups.

14. On 25 October, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, on the deteriorating security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo caused by the resumption of hostilities between M23 and the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo in North Kivu. He said that M23 had used heavy weapons to attack the positions of the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo. A rocket of unknown origin reportedly fired from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had fallen on a civilian settlement in Rwanda and MONUSCO had asked the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism to investigate those reports. Thousands of refugees had crossed the border from Kibumba to Rwanda. The members of the Council condemned the resumption of hostilities, and the reported shelling of Rwandan territory. They expressed serious concern at the humanitarian impact of the fighting. The Council members called for the investigation by the Verification Mechanism of incidents of shells landing on Rwandan soil. They called upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint and do their utmost to de-escalate tensions. They reaffirmed their support for a sustainable political solution and urged the swift conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue in that regard.

15. On 28 October, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, on the latest intensified fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. He reported on the joint Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and MONUSCO Intervention Brigade operations against M23 in the past days and the abandonment by M23 of its positions in North and South Kivu, and along the eastern borders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He informed the Council that a Tanzanian peacekeeper had been killed in the action. According to the Special Representative, MONUSCO was taking measures together with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the

Congo to prevent M23 from re-entering the vacated areas and to reinstate the State authority and public services there. He also said that three days earlier, he had activated an investigation by the Verification Mechanism on the reported shelling of the Rwandan territory and had continued contacts with the Rwandan authorities in order to prevent cross-border fighting. While characterizing the recent developments as a possible military end of M23, he also underlined the importance of searching for a political solution and the urgent conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue.

16. In a statement issued to the press after the consultations, the members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the attacks by M23 against MONUSCO in North Kivu in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, killing one Tanzanian peacekeeper. They called on the Government to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice. They also expressed their condolences for the loss of civilian lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Rwanda following shells landing on its territory. The Council members reiterated their full support for MONUSCO and called on all parties to cooperate fully with the Mission.

Guinea

17. On 23 October, the Security Council heard a briefing in the consultations of the whole by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, on the recent situation and political developments in Guinea after the 28 September 2013 legislative elections. In a statement issued to the press on 24 October, the members of the Council commended the Guinean people for their peaceful participation in the electoral process. They welcomed the efforts on election observation and technical support deployed by all Guinean and international actors, and urged all political stakeholders to pursue the avenues of legal recourse for the resolution of any electoral disputes and to continue to remain engaged in the Follow-up Committee established pursuant to the 3 July Agreement. They also urged all parties to implement all the recommendations of the Follow-up Committee without delay and to exercise restraint and calm as the Supreme Court certified the results of the election.

Libya

18. In a statement issued to the press on 4 October, the members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the attack against the Russian Embassy in Tripoli, on 2 October, which resulted in intrusions into the diplomatic premises, causing serious damage. While expressing their deep concern at the attack and underlining the need to bring its perpetrators to justice, they also recalled the fundamental principle of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises and the obligation of host Governments, including under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic and consular premises against any intrusion or damage, prevent any disturbance of the peace of these missions or impairment of their dignity, and prevent any attack on diplomatic premises, agents and consular officers.

Mali

19. On 16 October, the Security Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Albert Koenders, who presented the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2013/582). He drew the attention of Council members to two important achievements in the country, namely, the successful presidential elections in July and August and the establishment of MINUSMA. He characterized those developments as positive signs for the restoration of peace and security in Mali. He also elaborated on multiple security and humanitarian challenges remaining in the country, as well as the challenges faced by MINUSMA, and called for the rapid deployment of additional enablers and battalions to Mali in order for MINUSMA to discharge its mandate speedily and effectively. He said that the United Nations country team had devised an action plan to guide the international response to the most urgent humanitarian and early-recovery needs in the northern regions. The humanitarian appeal was only 37 per cent funded, which amounted to \$177 million of a total of \$477 million — a \$300 million gap. He urged the Council not to lose sight of the regional dimension of the situation and to provide political and financial support to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel region in order to address the root causes of the region's problems.

20. Oumar Diarra, Minister for Reconciliation and Development of the North of Mali, informed the Security Council of the political and security developments that had taken place in his country during the past months. He said that the high volatility of the security situation required sustained attention from all the friends of Mali and a renewed commitment from the international community to combat terrorism and trans-border crime. He also made an appeal to the international community, especially the friends of Mali, which had met in Brussels in May, for an urgent mobilization of pledges to boost economic development in the country.

21. The briefing was followed by closed consultations, where the members of the Security Council held detailed discussions on the recent political developments in Mali and the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement of 18 June 2013 between the Government and rebel groups. They expressed their support for the measures taken by MINUSMA to support the holding of the upcoming legislative elections in Mali in the light of the challenges identified in the recent presidential elections. They also discussed details on the preparations for national peace talks announced by President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta in his inauguration speech.

22. On 23 October, the Security Council issued a statement to the press, condemning in the strongest terms the attacks by unidentified armed assailants on MINUSMA in Tessalit, Mali, on 23 October, in which Chadian peacekeepers were killed, others were severely injured, and innocent civilians were killed.

Somalia

23. On 30 October, the Security Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, on the situation in Somalia. Speaking about his recent visit to Somalia, he said that 21 years after he first worked in the country, he had seen the beginning of a new Somalia. He had held meetings with the top leadership of the country, the representatives of the African Union and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), security officials and other interlocutors,

where national reconciliation issues had been discussed extensively. The Government had reiterated its commitment to federalism and power-sharing between the centre and the regions. He had urged the President to continue his political outreach efforts and to take forward inclusive dialogue on the future form of federalism in the country and had stressed the importance of building institutions, the rule of law and respect for human rights. It was agreed that a United Nations team would travel to Somalia the following month to advise on the support required to prepare for national elections in 2016.

24. The Deputy Secretary-General presented the recommendations of the African Union-United Nations joint mission to Somalia to establish benchmarks for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission and assess AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces, as contained in the letter dated 14 October 2013 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council ([S/2013/606](#)). He said that the joint mission had recommended the enhancement of AMISOM capabilities, including through an increase in troops and the provision of additional air assets, to enable it to respond to the evolving threats from Al-Shabaab and to provide the Somali National Security Forces with non-lethal and logistic support. Referring to the relevant recommendation by the Secretary-General, he asked the Council to authorize the deployment of a United Nations guard unit to protect United Nations locations until the Somali national forces assumed their responsibility. He also informed the Council about the benchmarks identified by the joint mission for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, as a step towards an eventual complete handover to the Somali security institutions, which included, inter alia, political agreement on the finalization of a federal vision and formation of administrations and states; extension of State authority through local administrations in recovered areas; degrading Al-Shabaab through a comprehensive strategy; improved capability of the Somali army and police; and the consent of the Federal Government with respect to the deployment of the mission.

25. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia ([S/2013/623](#)), the Deputy Secretary-General said that the security, development and governance factors had not changed sufficiently to deter criminals from attacking ships and holding seafarers hostage and that a comprehensive strategy to sustain security gains and address the underlying causes of piracy in Somalia was required. He urged the Federal Government of Somalia to expedite the submission of its report pursuant to resolution [2093 \(2013\)](#) on the structure of its security forces and on the measures to ensure the safe management of and accountability for weapons and military equipment.

26. Addressing the Security Council, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Ms. Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, said that, despite significant progress, Somalia was still vulnerable to domestic and external threats and that preserving the gains achieved to date required broader international operational support to AMISOM. Enhanced non-lethal and logistical support would allow Somalia to create the security conditions central to sustainable peace and development. Stressing that any increase in support must not be attached to specific timelines, she considered that closing the serious gap between pledges of support to AMISOM and the tempo of its operations was critical to discouraging the terrorists, enhancing Somali institutions and public safety, ensuring effective governance and holding general elections in 2016.

27. In the ensuing closed consultations, the members of the Security Council expressed their agreement with the recommendations of the African Union-United Nations joint mission on the enhancement of AMISOM capability and those of the Secretary-General on piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. While some members stressed the importance of providing the Somali National Security Forces with full United Nations logistical support, others voiced reservations on that recommendation, pointing to the current situation in the country and the precedent that such support could create with regard to other situations. Views were shared on the feasibility of limiting such support to the provision of food, medicine and fuel aid via voluntary funding through a United Nations trust fund, and on the preference of focusing on increased bilateral military support to Somalia.

Sudan and South Sudan

28. On 10 October, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and by the Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Major General Yohannes Tesfamariam, on developments in the relations between the Sudan and South Sudan and the situation in Abyei.

29. The Under-Secretary-General said that after the 3 September presidential summit, the atmosphere in the bilateral relations between the Sudan and South Sudan had remained positive. Oil transit had resumed and a number of meetings between the two sides had been held to implement the summit decisions, including on the opening of trade borders and visa facilitation. However, no concrete progress had been registered on security issues, including on the determination of the centre line of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. He informed the Security Council on the outcomes of the 397th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the 6th meeting of the Sudan-South Sudan Consultative Forum, held on 23 and 27 September in New York, respectively.

30. Turning to Abyei, the Under-Secretary-General said that the situation there could deteriorate with the coming end of the rainy season and migration of the Misseriya, and with the active preparation by the Ngok Dinka community for a unilateral referendum in October. He regretted the lack of any progress with regard to the establishment of the Abyei interim institutions and the final status of Abyei. He stressed the urgent need for the two States to follow up on the decision taken at the 3 September presidential summit on the expeditious implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement temporary arrangements for the administration and security of Abyei Area of 20 June 2011.

31. Regarding the situation in the States of South Kordofan and Blue Nile in the Sudan, he said that on 1 October the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) had declared an end to its unilateral ceasefire. There had been no reports of resumed fighting and no progress on the resumption of direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and the SPLM-North. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was negotiating with both sides to overcome differences and enable the launch of a two-week polio vaccination campaign, which would affect more than 165,000 children in those States, on 5 November as planned. He underlined the need for the Security Council to send relevant messages to both sides.

32. Referring to the recent report by the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2013/577), the UNISFA Commander said that during the period under review the security situation in the area had been generally calm, but remained highly unpredictable. The lack of concrete progress in the establishment of the Abyei Area joint institutions had created a dangerous political and administrative vacuum. Tensions were rising between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities over the former's plan to unilaterally hold a referendum in October. Following the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief on 4 May 2013, several attempts to reconvene the meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee had proved futile. The operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism continued in accordance with the 8 March 2013 implementation plan agreed upon between the Sudan and South Sudan. A major obstacle to the full operationalization of the Mechanism was the lack of agreement between the two States on the location of the centre line of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

33. The members of the Security Council reiterated their full support for the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and UNISFA. They welcomed the positive atmosphere of Sudan-South Sudan bilateral relations and called for the implementation of the 3 September summit decisions, particularly those on Abyei. Unanimous concern was expressed about the lack of progress on the launch of a polio vaccination campaign on 5 November. They were in general agreement on the unacceptability of politicizing that purely humanitarian undertaking.

34. On 11 October, the members of the Security Council issued a statement to the press, expressing alarm and grave concern at the imminent threat of the spread of polio through South Kordofan and the continuing outbreak of polio in the Horn of Africa. They called upon the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North to urgently resolve differences over the technical plans, including for safe passage, necessary to implement the polio vaccination campaign as soon as possible, as proposed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, in order for the two-week vaccination campaign to go forward in South Kordofan and Blue Nile on 5 November as planned.

35. On 14 October, in a statement issued to the press, the members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the attack by unidentified armed assailants on an African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) military observer in El Fasher, North Darfur, on 11 October, in which a Zambian military observer was killed, and the attack by unidentified armed assailants on a UNAMID convoy near El Geneina, West Darfur, on 13 October, in which three Senegalese peacekeepers were killed and one was wounded.

36. On 16 October, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the 11 and 13 October attacks against UNAMID personnel.

37. On 23 October, the Security Council heard a briefing at an open meeting by the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur and Head of UNAMID, Mohamed Ibn Chambas. He expressed serious concern about the security situation in Darfur and threats to UNAMID and humanitarian personnel. He said that the situation in Darfur was further complicated by the intertribal conflicts, which continued to plague the region, resulting in large numbers of civilian casualties and mass displacement, and by the clashes between the Government

forces and the non-signatory movements. As part of its conflict mitigation efforts, UNAMID had worked closely with regional, State and local authorities to bring about reconciliation between the conflicting tribal groups. Although a number of agreements on a cessation of hostilities had been reached, the situation remained fragile. Speaking of UNAMID's delivery of relief assistance to affected communities, he mentioned some instances of access denial, restriction of movement and bureaucratic impediments, but also noted that the number of such restrictions in proportion to the number of patrols and escorts carried out by the Mission was quite low. Providing an update on the status of the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, the Joint Special Representative informed Council members that since the donor conference held in April, the signatory parties had been concentrating on developing institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the Darfur Development Strategy. He also reported on the status of the Darfur-based dialogue and consultations and on his engagement with the non-signatory movements in an attempt to find common ground for advancing the peace process in Darfur, including preliminary consultations held with the leaders of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) — Gibril Ibrahim and the Minni Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Army from 22 to 27 August in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

38. Outlining the main elements of the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMID (S/2013/607), the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said that despite very challenging circumstances, the Mission remained resolute in its commitment to providing much-needed protection to civilians, facilitating the delivery of aid and supporting the peace process, and that the United Nations would continue to work with the Mission, the African Union and other partners to ensure that peacekeepers in Darfur were able to carry out their mandate in a robust, effective and efficient way.

39. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan expressed his Government's major concern at and condemnation of the abductions and massacres committed by the rebel movements in Darfur against the civilian population and peacekeeping troops. He welcomed the efforts of Mohamed Ibn Chambas towards persuading the movements that refused to join the peace process to do so. He urged the Security Council to ensure the success of those efforts by influencing the non-signatory movements to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible in order to restore peace and security in Darfur. He said that there had been considerable progress in granting visas to UNAMID personnel and confirmed his Government's determination to help UNAMID carry out its mandate in the most effective manner.

40. In closed consultations, the members of the Security Council were unanimous in expressing grave concern at the unprecedented level of attacks against and casualties among UNAMID peacekeepers, calling for swift investigation in order to bring the perpetrators to justice and stressing the necessity of additional measures to increase the safety and security of United Nations personnel. They welcomed the efforts by Joint Special Representative Chambas to advance the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the internal Darfur-based dialogue and consultations. Some members expressed concerns about the obstacles to UNAMID's work put in place by the Government of the Sudan and underscored its responsibility to ensure the safety and security of UNAMID personnel. Concerns were also raised by some members about the difficulties around the implementation of the Doha Document and its failure to provide for the expected stability in Darfur.

Other members regarded the non-signatory movements' refusal to join the peace process and continued pursuit of a regime change as a major obstacle to the implementation of the Doha Document and called for the imposition of sanctions against those who impeded the peace process. An opinion was also voiced that meeting the development needs of Darfur and ensuring equitable access by the communities to natural resources would have a positive impact on the security situation.

41. On 24 October, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, on relations between the Sudan and South Sudan. He reported that during the previous two weeks, the bilateral relations had continued to improve in some areas but that some pending issues remained unresolved. The Presidents of both States had met in Juba on 22 October. According to the communiqué of the summit, they had had a frank, cordial and fruitful discussion on various aspects of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement and had agreed, *inter alia*, to expedite the identification of the centre line of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone; continue to exert joint efforts to achieve debt relief, the lifting of economic sanctions and the enhancement of development in the two countries; expedite the operationalization of the work of the joint committees on oil monitoring and exportation; and expedite the establishment of Abyei administration, council and police organs.

42. Characterizing the meeting as a positive development, the Assistant Secretary-General noted, however, that no progress had been achieved on the final status of Abyei mainly owing to internal pressures on both Presidents in their respective States. He also stressed the lack of progress in establishing Abyei interim institutions. On the situation in Abyei Area, he said that the Ngok Dinka population was actively preparing for a referendum at the end of the month. On 18 October, the Ngok Dinka People's General Conference had adopted a declaration confirming its intention to hold such a referendum. In a press statement adopted on 21 October before the presidential meeting in Juba, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, *inter alia*, appealed to both Presidents to seize the opportunity of their summit to take concrete steps to address the challenges at hand in Abyei, reiterated the need for the expeditious implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on temporary arrangements for the administration and security of the Abyei Area, and called on the parties to refrain from any unilateral action and statements that might impede progress towards the search for a lasting solution.

43. On the situation in the States of South Kordofan and Blue Nile of the Sudan, the Assistant Secretary-General said that the Government of the Sudan had declared a two-week unilateral ceasefire starting on 1 November to allow for the start of a polio vaccination campaign on 5 November. He also said that no progress on resuming stalled talks between the sides had been registered and warned about the possibility of renewed hostilities with the end of the rainy season.

44. In their remarks, the members of the Security Council welcomed the outcomes of the presidential summit in Juba and the positive atmosphere prevailing in the bilateral relations between the Sudan and South Sudan. At the same time, they were unanimous in expressing grave concern about the highly volatile situation in the Abyei Area and urgently called on all concerned to refrain from any unilateral action that could heighten tension or impede a solution. They welcomed the

commitment by the two Presidents to proceed expeditiously with the establishment of the Abyei Administration, Abyei Council and Abyei Police Service; called for the implementation of that commitment; and recalled their decision in resolution [2046 \(2012\)](#) that the parties must resume immediately negotiations to reach agreement on the final status of Abyei under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. Some Council members condemned the intention of the Ngok Dinka to proceed with holding a unilateral referendum and said that it could irreversibly undermine all achievements. Members also called for concrete steps on the issues of debt relief, the lifting of economic sanctions and the provision of assistance to the Sudan and South Sudan in order to support the improvement of bilateral relations and provide favourable conditions for the resolution of pending issues.

45. On 25 October, the Security Council heard a briefing in closed consultations from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in Jonglei State, South Sudan. He reported that on 20 October, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) had received information from the South Sudanese authorities on deadly attacks against civilians in several locations in Twic East County of Jonglei, which had resulted in high numbers of killed and wounded among the Dinka people. According to survivor accounts, the attackers were in uniform and used heavy weapons. It was believed that the insurgent Murle militias led by David Yau Yau were behind the attacks, although this had been strongly denied by him. The Under-Secretary-General further informed the Council about the measures taken by UNMISS and other humanitarian organizations to evacuate wounded civilians, assess the humanitarian and human rights impacts of the attacks and determine the identity of the attackers. He said that the Government response in the aftermath, which had deployed military and police units to the area to provide effective protection to vulnerable communities, was encouraging. Also, the President of South Sudan had issued a statement condemning the attacks and reiterating its call for dialogue and amnesty for rebels.

46. The members of the Security Council expressed their grave concern at the recent violence against civilians in Jonglei and called for swift investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice. Some members referred to the Government's poor security presence in the area and underlined its main responsibility to protect civilians. They also called on the Government to adopt a comprehensive approach to solving the underlying causes of instability in Jonglei. Questions were raised about measures employed by UNMISS, including through early warning, quick response and containment of violence, to fulfil its strong civilian protection mandate.

Western Sahara

47. On 30 October, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, and the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Christopher Ross. The Special Representative said that the situation in Western Sahara during the reporting period had remained stable. Since the adoption of resolution [2099 \(2013\)](#) in April, the geographic scope of MINURSO activities had increased and there was hope for further advancements. Progress had been registered in the implementation of confidence-building measures and the Mission's ceasefire monitoring activities.

48. The Personal Envoy informed Security Council members about his trip to the region from 12 to 26 October. He said that all interlocutors had confirmed their commitment to working with the United Nations to pursue a political solution, while reiterating, at the same time, attachment to their own positions. He spoke in favour of a mutually acceptable political solution and underlined the importance of promoting ownership of the peace process by the parties to the conflict themselves, saying that just the absence of war was not good enough. He would continue the new approach, which consisted of undertaking “shuttle diplomacy”, whereby he would consult privately with each of the parties and neighbouring States in an attempt to make progress on elements of a possible compromise or consensual solution.

49. In their remarks, most Security Council members stressed the need for a mutually acceptable political solution to the conflict. Several other members voiced support for the autonomy plan put forward by Morocco. Morocco’s continued efforts to improve the economic, social and human rights situation in Western Sahara were welcomed. Some members urged further improvements in that regard. Some expressed their concern about the situation of the population in the Tindouf camps in Algeria and requested a refugee registration of that population. A number of delegations referred to the situation in the broader Sahel region and its impact on the conflict.

III. Middle East

Lebanon

50. On 24 October, the Security Council heard a briefing in closed consultations from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#), Terje Roed-Larsen, who introduced the semi-annual report of the Secretary-General ([S/2013/612](#)). He said that the reporting period had seen no progress on the implementation of key provisions of resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#) and had been characterized by increasing threats to the security and stability of Lebanon, including challenges to efforts to uphold the country’s disassociation from the Syrian crisis. The impact of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic had continued to affect the security and stability of Lebanon both directly and indirectly. The reporting period had also witnessed devastating terrorist incidents in the country as well as a significant increase in the number of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, including Palestinians, seeking safety in Lebanon, surpassing 800,000 by 1 October. President Michel Sleiman had renewed his calls for all Lebanese parties to disassociate themselves from the Syrian crisis and to respect the Baabda Declaration. Given the ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, no tangible steps had been taken by either side during the period towards the delineation and demarcation of the border between the two States. There continued to be reports of arms trafficking in both directions.

51. The Special Envoy further reported that on 31 May the Lebanese Parliament, citing the tense security situation in the country, had voted to extend its mandate until 20 November 2014, thus postponing the elections scheduled for June. Efforts to form a government continued and there had been no resumption of the National Dialogue in the reporting period.

52. In their remarks, Security Council members expressed deep concern about the lack of tangible progress in the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) and underlined the need for all parties to meet their international obligations. They deplored the spillover of the Syrian conflict into Lebanon, in particular the intercommunal violence and humanitarian crisis it had caused in that country, and called on all parties to the Syrian conflict to respect Lebanon's neutrality. Some emphasized the need to complete the delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border, critical to stopping the arms smuggling in the area. Many members condemned the foreign military presence in the northern part of the village of Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line and the continued violation of Lebanese airspace, and called for an end to those violations. Some members also deplored the lack of any progress with regard to the formation of a new government, the forging of a consensus on new electoral law and the resumption of the National Dialogue.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

53. On 22 October, the Security Council held an open debate under the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question". In his briefing to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs said that the meeting was taking place at a moment of active diplomacy and discussions on both immediate crises and long-standing sources of tensions in the region, including the Syrian conflict, the Middle East peace process and questions regarding nuclear proliferation. Speaking of the latest developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said that on 27 September, for the first time in 17 months, the Quartet principals had met in New York. They were joined by the Israeli and Palestinian chief negotiators for a joint briefing on the progress of the negotiations, who reiterated their personal and official commitment to reaching a comprehensive permanent status agreement, and asked for the support of the Quartet and the international community. Both stressed that their shared objective was to end the conflict, based on a vision of two States for two peoples. On 25 September, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians had met at the ministerial level and expressed its full support for the ongoing peace negotiations. He deplored the recent security incidents and clashes that had taken place despite the welcome intensification of negotiations and reiterated the unequivocal call by the United Nations for all sides to refrain from violence and incitement, reinforce calm and reverse negative trends in order to preserve the tentative opening in the political process. He said that the settlement activity carried out by Israel was an obstacle to peace and against international law. He also expressed concern at the construction of tunnels from Gaza into Israel, which violate the November 2012 ceasefire understanding. He highlighted serious financial difficulties faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and underlined that the \$48 million deficit in its budget for education, health and poverty mitigation work threatened the provision of essential services to more than 5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine.

54. Turning to Lebanon, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs said that the security situation in the country continued to be affected by cross-border shelling and shooting from the Syrian Arab Republic, resulting in numerous casualties. The Lebanese army and security forces had deployed heavily around the southern suburbs of Beirut to assume security responsibility in place of Hizbullah,

and also in Tripoli. He informed the Council that in the light of the multiple impacts of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, on 25 September, on the margins of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General had convened an inaugural high-level meeting to launch the International Support Group for Lebanon, which had reaffirmed international support for Lebanon's stability and policy of disassociation, and encouraged assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces, refugees, host communities and the Government of Lebanon.

55. On the Syrian Arab Republic, he stressed that while important progress had been made on the chemical weapons file, by itself, that would by no means bring an end to the appalling suffering of the Syrian people. He reiterated that the only way to bring peace to the Syrian Arab Republic was through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process. Hard work was being done at all levels to convene the Geneva conference in mid-November, aimed at helping the Syrian sides launch a political process, which would lead to an agreement on how to fully implement the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 and establish by consent a new transitional governing body with full executive authority. The situation in the Golan continued to be volatile, with ongoing heavy clashes between the Syrian Arab Armed Forces and armed members of the opposition occurring inside the area of separation, jeopardizing the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic.

56. Many Security Council members welcomed recent progress in the Middle East peace process. Members also focused on the deteriorating violence and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and most emphasized that a political solution was the only durable way to end the crisis. They also stated support for a Geneva II conference and noted concern about delays. Some members emphasized the need for accountability for all acts of violence and others repeated that arming the sides would not help to end the conflict. Concerns were also raised with regard to the growing impact of the Syrian crisis on stability and security in Lebanon and the broader region.

Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

57. On 2 October, the Security Council adopted presidential statement [S/PRST/2013/15](#), in which it expressed grave concern at the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. It condemned all cases of denial of humanitarian access and urged all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all humanitarian actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities, to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the affected people in the Syrian Arab Republic. In particular, the Council urged the Syrian authorities to take immediate steps to facilitate the expansion of humanitarian relief operations and to lift bureaucratic impediments and other obstacles. It also urged all parties to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel, that of its specialized agencies, and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities; immediately demilitarize medical facilities, schools and water stations; refrain from targeting civilian objects; and agree on the modalities to implement humanitarian pauses and on key routes to enable promptly safe and unhindered humanitarian passage. It expressed its appreciation for the significant efforts made by the neighbouring countries and the countries of the region, notably Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, to accommodate the more than 2 million refugees who have fled the Syrian Arab

Republic. It also urged all Member States to respond swiftly to the United Nations humanitarian appeals to meet the spiralling needs of people inside the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular internally displaced persons, and Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries, and to ensure that all pledges are honoured in full. The Council reiterated its endorsement of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 (annex II of resolution 2118 (2013)) and demanded that all parties work towards its immediate and comprehensive implementation.

58. On 10 October, the Council heard a briefing in closed consultations from the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Susana Malcorra, on the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013). She outlined the main recommendations on the role of the United Nations in eliminating the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic contained in the letter dated 7 October from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2013/591), as requested in the resolution. She informed the Council that on 14 September, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had deposited with the United Nations its instruments of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention and had declared that it would apply the Convention provisionally pending its entry into force in the Syrian Arab Republic. On 1 October, a joint advance team of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations arrived in Damascus to initiate its activities pursuant to the decision of the OPCW Executive Council and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). The rapid deployment of the OPCW/United Nations joint advance team was made possible through the close collaboration of the two Organizations, as well as the cooperation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. On 6 October, the joint advance team undertook its first verification visit and supervised the destruction by Syrian personnel of chemical weapons materials, including missile warheads, aerial bombs and mixing and filling equipment. The Chef de Cabinet drew the attention of Council members to the Secretary-General's recommendation on the establishment of an OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission, which he had put forward following close consultation with the OPCW Director-General, with the aim of achieving the timely elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme in the safest and most secure manner possible. She said that the two Organizations would operate in areas of their particular competencies and in a complementary manner and the Joint Mission would be headed by a civilian Special Coordinator, at the level of Under-Secretary-General, who would provide the overall coordination of the Joint Mission and liaise with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, opposition groups and the international community. She added that while each Organization would fund its own personnel and tasks, they both would launch a separate but complementary trust fund to assist the financing of OPCW activities. Elaborating further, she said that the Joint Mission would operate in three phases, namely, conduct of initial verification; completion of initial inspection of all chemical weapons production and storage facilities by 1 November; and provision of support to, monitoring and verification of the destruction of the chemical weapons programme by 30 June 2014. She sought the Council's agreement on this recommendation.

59. In their remarks, the members of the Security Council commended the swift steps taken by the United Nations and OPCW to implement resolution 2118 (2013) and expressed their support for the Secretary-General's recommendation to establish an OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission on the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. They urged the Government of the Syrian

Arab Republic to fully cooperate with the Joint Mission. A few members noted the importance of a geographic balance in setting up the Joint Mission and of the prior consent of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, given its level of cooperation and in order to prevent access to its chemical weapons by other parties to the conflict. Some members stressed that the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons would not eliminate the causes of the conflict and therefore the main focus should be placed on the political process and convening the Geneva II talks, scheduled for mid-November.

60. Through the letter dated 11 October 2013 ([S/2013/603](#)) from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General, the Council authorized the establishment of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission to eliminate the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

61. On 25 October, the Security Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, who reported on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the status of implementation of the 2 October presidential statement [S/PRST/2013/15](#). She said with regret that despite the Council's grave alarm at the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation and its call for urgent increased humanitarian action, fighting continued to intensify across the country and its impact on civilians continued to grow each day. She said that her Office kept receiving reports of both Government and opposition military positions having been established in populated areas and of the occupation of and indiscriminate attacks against civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, power plants and water points. The United Nations agencies and partners continued to work in extremely dangerous and difficult conditions across the country to reach millions of people with regular humanitarian assistance. Despite best efforts, the humanitarian response in the Syrian Arab Republic remained severely insufficient compared with the growing needs. It had not been possible to provide assistance to an estimated 2.5 million people trapped in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. She deplored the lack of breakthrough in the Government's facilitation of the expansion of humanitarian relief operations and the lifting of bureaucratic impediments and other obstacles, and reiterated that without real and sustained pressure from the Council as a whole, and from individual Council members with influence over the parties, on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and opposition groups on the ground, it would be impossible to make further progress.

62. The briefing was followed by closed consultations, where the members of the Security Council expressed their serious concern at the lack of implementation of the Council's 2 October presidential statement by either of the parties to the Syrian conflict. They underlined the urgency of ceasing hostilities in order to allow the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid to the affected population and called on the parties to respect their obligations to protect civilians. Some members spoke in favour of applying further pressure on the parties and mentioned the possibility of a Council resolution to strengthen its calls set forth in the presidential statement of 2 October.

IV. Asia

Afghanistan

63. On 10 October, the Security Council unanimously adopted its resolution [2120 \(2013\)](#), in which it decided to extend the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) until 31 December 2014 and requested the leadership of ISAF to keep the Council regularly informed, through the Secretary-General, on the implementation of its mandate, including through the timely provision of quarterly reports and its final report in December 2014, which should be comprehensive. It recognized that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the country resides with the Afghan authorities, stressed the role of ISAF in assisting the Government of Afghanistan to improve the security situation and build its own security capabilities, and welcomed the cooperation of the Government of Afghanistan with ISAF. The Council expressed its serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, in particular women and children, the increasingly large majority of which were caused by Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, and recalled that women play a vital role in the peace process. It emphasized the importance of protecting the rights of Afghan women and girls. The Council also welcomed the decision of the Government of Afghanistan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that NATO would work towards continuing to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces after 2014 and noted that any new mission should have a sound legal basis, as stated in paragraph 14 of the Chicago Summit Joint Declaration on Afghanistan.

Maldives

64. On 2 October, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, briefed Security Council members in closed consultations under “Any other business” on the latest political developments and rising tensions in Maldives following the first round of the presidential elections of 7 September and on the actions taken by the United Nations to monitor and calm the situation.

V. Latin America

Haiti

65. On 10 October, the Security Council adopted unanimously resolution [2119 \(2013\)](#), in which it recognized the steps that Haiti had taken towards stabilization, noted with concern the delays in preparations for elections scheduled for later in 2013, and called on the Government of Haiti and all concerned actors to hold free, fair, inclusive and credible elections as a matter of urgency in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti. It underlined the need to further strengthen Haiti’s judicial and correctional systems and reiterated the critical role of the national police, acknowledging that the country continued to face significant humanitarian challenges. Reiterating the need for security to be accompanied by social and economic development, the Council noted the Government’s ongoing efforts to control and eliminate the cholera epidemic. Stressing the critical role of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in ensuring stability and security in the country and commending its continuing assistance to the Government

of Haiti to ensure a secure and stable environment, the Council decided to extend its mandate until 15 October 2014, with the intention of further renewal. The Council further decided to reduce the overall force levels of MINUSTAH to up to 5,021 troops and affirmed that adjustments to the force configuration should be based on, inter alia, the security situation on the ground, taking into account the importance of maintaining a secure and stable environment, the increase in the capabilities of the Haitian State, and the impact of social and political realities on Haiti's stability and security. Affirming the increasing responsibility of the national authorities for the maintenance of stability and security in the country, it called upon MINUSTAH to maintain capacity to deploy troops rapidly throughout the country.

66. Speaking after the adoption, one member of the Council questioned the sustainability of maintaining 5,000 military peacekeepers in a country where there had been no recent military conflict, emphasizing that some tasks would be better managed by other United Nations entities. The same Council member also underlined the need to transfer quick-impact tasks from MINUSTAH to other United Nations agencies and funds in order to ensure the continuity of international support to Haiti, while allowing the Mission itself to focus on providing a safe and stable environment in the country.

VI. Thematic and general issues

Annual report of the Security Council

67. On 30 October, the Security Council adopted its annual report to the General Assembly covering the period from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013 (A/68/2). As Council President for the month of July 2013, the United States had been tasked with drafting the 2013 report.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

68. During the Security Council mission to Africa from 3 to 9 October, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Security Council held their 7th annual joint consultative meeting at the African Union Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, on 8 October, co-chaired by Azerbaijan and Equatorial Guinea in their capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of October and acting President of the African Union Peace and Security Council respectively. Six topics were included in the agenda of the meeting: the Great Lakes region, the Sudan and South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Sahel region and the enhancement of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. In general, the two Councils agreed in principle on the diagnosis of the situation in those countries and regions, on the partnerships required and on the solution to bring about sustainable peace in those conflict-affected countries. The Peace and Security Council and the Security Council assessed, inter alia, the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations with regard to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa. They welcomed the progress made to date and stressed the need for continued efforts to enhance the existing partnership at both the strategic and operational levels, in order to ensure greater synergy and coherence and more effective responses to the evolving peace and security challenges that the African continent is facing. The two agreed to convene their

8th annual joint consultative meeting in New York in June 2014. A joint communiqué was adopted and issued later as a document of the Security Council ([S/2013/611](#)).

69. On 28 October, in connection with its consideration of the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, the Security Council held a high-level meeting on strengthening the partnership synergy between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, and was attended by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OIC and the high-level representatives of the Council members.

70. In his briefing to the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, said that the United Nations and OIC were working closely on issues ranging from conflict prevention and conflict resolution to counter-terrorism and from human rights and humanitarian affairs to intercultural dialogue and sustainable development, and touched upon specific areas, including the Syrian Arab Republic, the Middle East peace process, Myanmar, Afghanistan and the Sudan, where this joint work was most critical. He noted the significant progress made in strengthening the cooperation between the two Organizations, including through formal partnership agreements and joint workplans, staff exchanges and joint mediation deployments, and emphasized the need to deepen their strategic dialogue. In his address to the Council, the Secretary General of OIC, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, said that the convening of the meeting demonstrated the importance attached by the Council to cooperation between the United Nations and OIC. He further said that proceeding from its new vision and mission of moderation and modernization, OIC continued to play an important role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, promoting post-conflict reconstruction, defusing humanitarian crises, combating terrorism and promoting socioeconomic development in its member States as an important contribution to global efforts in the promotion of international peace and security. OIC had expressed on many occasions its readiness to develop an effective partnership with the United Nations to enhance cooperation in all fields and to evolve early responses to disputes and emerging crises. A number of Council members welcomed the important contribution of OIC to the maintenance of international peace and security and commended its commitment to deepening the partnership with the United Nations. They detailed their views and positions on specific problems, crises and critical issues in various regions and underlined the critical need for the enhanced cooperation of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, including OIC.

71. In its presidential statement [S/PRST/2013/16](#), adopted as an outcome of the meeting, the Security Council, inter alia, recognized and further encouraged the active contribution of OIC to the work of the United Nations; acknowledged the continuing dialogue between the two Organizations in the fields of peacemaking, preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding; noted that the United Nations and OIC share common objectives in promoting and facilitating the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the political solution of the Syrian conflict in accordance with the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012, as well as in fostering solutions to other conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council; noted the commitment

of both to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of tolerance and peace and called for enhanced cooperation to promote better understanding across countries, cultures and civilizations; and recognized the importance of strengthening cooperation with OIC in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Peace and security in Africa

72. On 31 October, the Security Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Contact Group of the Executive Council of the African Union on the International Criminal Court to discuss a request contained in the identical letters dated 21 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2013/624](#)).

Private meeting with the President of the International Court of Justice

73. On 28 October, in a private meeting, the Security Council considered the item entitled “Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice”. The Council members heard a briefing by and had an exchange of views with Judge Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice.

Women and peace and security

74. On 18 October, in connection with its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security ([S/2013/525](#)), the Security Council held an open debate on the topic of women, rule of law and transitional justice in conflict-affected situations. In his statement, the Secretary-General said that women’s participation in peace efforts was a matter of gender equality and universal human rights, and crucial to achieving sustainable peace, economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy. He also underlined the necessity of achieving concrete results and measurable change in the lives of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings ahead of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) in 2015. Presenting the report of the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, called for combating a climate of impunity for crimes committed against women. Among the participants at the open debate were the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the representative of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, the Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security of the Secretary General of NATO and the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

75. The Security Council adopted unanimously resolution [2122 \(2013\)](#), in which it recognized the need for consistent implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) in its own work and expressed its intention to focus more attention on women’s leadership and participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Recognizing also the need for timely information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution for situations on its agenda, the Council welcomed more regular briefings by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual

Violence in Conflict on issues relating to women and peace and security. The Council requested updates as part of its regular briefings from the Secretary-General, as well as his special envoys and representatives (heads of United Nations missions), on progress in inviting women to participate in discussions on preventing and resolving conflict, maintaining peace and security and building post-conflict peace. It invited all United Nations-established commissions of inquiry investigating situations on the Council's agenda to include in their briefings information on the impacts of armed conflict on women and girls. The Council reiterated its intention to convene a high-level review in 2015 to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), renew commitments and address obstacles and constraints that have emerged in the implementation of the resolution.

Working methods

76. On 29 October, the Security Council held an open debate on working methods under the agenda item "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council [S/2010/507](#)". The broad participation in the meeting and constructive practical proposals put forward by speakers demonstrated the great interest that the Member States attach to the Council's working methods. Deliberations focused on issues of transparency, interaction with non-members of the Council, troop- and police-contributing countries, regional and subregional bodies and relevant United Nations bodies and the overall efficiency of the Council, with the aim of identifying ways of improving those aspects. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Council, with the participation of interested delegations from the wider membership, to look into the implementation of note [S/2010/507](#) and subsequent notes adopted by the Council and identify positive trends and new practices to increase efficiency and transparency and to address any shortcomings and specific areas where further improvements were needed.
