

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 6 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Luxembourg in March 2014 (see annex). This document was prepared under my supervision, after consultation 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) Sylvie **Lucas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 6 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

**Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Luxembourg
March 2014**

Introduction

In March 2014, during the presidency of Luxembourg, the Security Council held a total of 28 meetings, of which 24 were public meetings (including 3 thematic meetings) and 4 were private meetings. In addition, the Council held 19 consultations of the whole. It adopted 7 resolutions, 1 presidential statement and 6 press statements.

Africa

Burundi

On 26 March, in consultations, the Security Council received a briefing from Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, on the situation in Burundi. He informed Council members that the situation in Burundi had deteriorated further since the last briefing to the Council. Tensions between the ruling party and its minority ally in the Government had meanwhile increased. He also recalled that on 8 March, a demonstration by opposition party members had degenerated into clashes with police forces and hostage-taking of two policemen, resulting in the arrest of many of the demonstrators. He informed the Council that on 21 March, the Parliament did not adopt the draft law amending the Constitution. He noted that the draft law would have eliminated the Arusha Agreement as the legal foundation of the 2005 Constitution. He concluded by saying that the political environment in Burundi remained overall volatile.

Council members condemned the violence that had occurred between the police and members of the opposition, and underlined that this level of violence was inconsistent with the progress made by Burundi towards peaceful democracy, since the conclusion of the Arusha Agreement in 2000. They also called on all parties to exercise restraint and to reject violence and the use of force. Some members expressed deep concern about the limitations to the freedom of expression and assembly. Several Council members expressed regret that the situation in Burundi was growing increasingly tense so soon after the Council had decided (by resolution [2137 \(2014\)](#) of 13 February 2014) to close the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) by 31 December 2014, as requested by the Government of Burundi.

On 27 March, as decided during the consultations, the President of the Security Council met with the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Burundi, to convey the Council members' questions and concerns regarding the developments in Burundi. On 28 March, the President reported back to the Council on the meeting.

Central African Republic

On 6 March, the Security Council held a briefing, followed by consultations on the situation in the Central African Republic. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, presented the report of the Secretary-General dated 3 March 2014 (S/2014/142) and its recommendations on the transformation of the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) into a United Nations peacekeeping operation, pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013). Council members were also briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, and by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, both of whom had just returned from a visit to the Central African Republic. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, and the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Tété Antonio, also made statements.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations stated that addressing the crisis in the Central African Republic would require a unified and integrated approach, through the deployment of a multidimensional peacekeeping operation, with the protection of civilians as its utmost priority. He noted that the proposal of the Secretary-General was based on a “fit for purpose approach” taking into account the specific context in the Central African Republic. He further stressed that responding to the crisis would require time and resources and that the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation should be part of a broader, long-term engagement of the international community. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees both expressed concern about the dire humanitarian situation, with more than 650,000 internally displaced persons and over 290,000 people having fled to the neighbouring countries, as well as about the numerous human rights violations. Both underlined the need for urgent action to prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

In consultations, Council members expressed concern about the humanitarian, human rights and security situation in the Central African Republic. Some Council members referred to the regional impact of the crisis, in particular to the situation of refugees in neighbouring countries. In this context, some Council members also stressed the need for a greater involvement of regional actors. Council members all agreed that there would be no easy and short-term solution to the complex crisis in the Central African Republic and that a United Nations peacekeeping operation should be deployed. Most Council members also stressed that there was an urgent need for reconciliation between the communities.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 14 March, the Security Council held a briefing followed by consultations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 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 to the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson briefed the Council by video teleconference. They introduced the quarterly reports of the

Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2014/157) and on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2014/153). They underlined that much progress had been achieved in 2013 and referred to the military defeat of Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), the joint operations against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), and the gradual re-establishment of State authority in the liberated areas. The two briefers stressed that the time had come to consolidate these gains while continuing to secure the zones where the armed groups were still active. In this regard, they affirmed that the overriding priorities of MONUSCO remained the same: security and protection followed by stabilization of conflict-affected areas and supporting the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. They also highlighted the fact that military actions against armed movements should not be seen as a stand-alone activity, but must be part of a broader strategy encompassing security sector reform, demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of combatants and a long-term engagement by the international community in favour of peace and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Great Lakes region. Council members reiterated their satisfaction with the work carried out by MONUSCO and the Special Representative, as well as by the Special Envoy, and encouraged them to continue their efforts to achieve lasting peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They underscored the need to pursue the neutralization of armed groups, to accelerate the implementation of key national reforms and to achieve the objectives of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework.

On 28 March, the Council adopted resolution 2147 (2014), which extended the mandate of MONUSCO, including its intervention brigade, until 31 March 2015. Prior to the briefing and consultations of 14 March, the Council held a private meeting with the troop- and police-contributing countries to MONUSCO on 12 March. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Martin Kobler, had an exchange of views with troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries on the activities of MONUSCO, including its intervention brigade, in the light of the adoption of resolution 2098 (2013).

Liberia

On 20 March, the Security Council received a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Karin Landgren, based upon the twenty-seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2014/123). The Special Representative underscored that, although the political and security environment remained relatively stable and progress continued in a number of areas, Liberia faced great challenges in institutionalizing reforms in critical sectors and building capacity for effective governance. She focused her remarks on the constitutional reform process, decentralization, reconciliation, accountability, transparency and justice and security sector reform. She considered the joint transition plan of the Mission and the Government as an example of exceptional collaboration and cautioned that the coming phases of the transition needed careful management, including dialogue with communities and clearly defining the goals to be reached by Liberia's security institutions.

In his capacity as Chair of the Liberia country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Staffan Tillander, focused his remarks on justice and security, national reconciliation, land tenure and natural resources, mobilization of support and resources, and the need to accelerate capacity-building in view of the UNMIL transition. He stressed that, while some progress had been made on building capacity in the justice and security sector, and while some aspects of national reconciliation had moved forward, many of the commitments still remained unfulfilled and the Government needed to focus on key peacebuilding challenges. He underscored that, while the international community could certainly play an important supportive role, there was no substitute for Liberian ownership, political will and leadership.

During consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, provided a short briefing on the strategic review he had led to Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire from 7 to 20 February 2014. Members of the Council expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the security situation in Liberia remained stable. They welcomed cross-border cooperation between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and inter-mission cooperation between UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Considering the phased drawdown of UNMIL, members of the Council underlined the importance of ensuring the best possible coordination and interaction between the United Nations country team, the Peacebuilding Commission and the bilateral and multilateral partners of Liberia. Members of the Council stressed the need for the Government of Liberia to accelerate security sector reform and to allocate adequate resources in particular to the Liberian National Police. Members of the Council further encouraged the Government to pay greater attention to combatting impunity for crimes of sexual and gender-based violence, especially against minors. They also stressed that land issues and lack of progress in national reconciliation remained potential sources of recurrent conflict in Liberia.

Libya

On 10 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Libya drawing on the most recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/131). He explained that the 8 March incident whereby the North Korean-flagged vessel *Morning Glory* loaded Libyan oil at the rebel-held terminal of Sidra in eastern Libya was a violation of Libya's sovereignty over its ports and natural resources.

The Special Representative noted that there had been a dramatic increase in violence across the country and that, particularly in the east, the campaign of targeted assassinations, bombings and abductions had reached what he called "intolerable levels". He also noted an increase in attacks on journalists and media institutions.

The Special Representative acknowledged that the efforts to negotiate an agreement on the management of the transitional period, including the future of the General National Congress and the Government, had yet to bear fruit. He explained that the decision by the General National Congress to extend its term beyond 7 February and to hold elections at a date to be announced in due course had de facto established a new transitional period. He also mentioned that elections for the

Constitution-drafting assembly were held on 20 February, and noted that a total of 13 seats could not be filled owing to security considerations or boycott by minority groups. He welcomed the holding and the results of the Rome conference, held on 6 March, and praised the participation of neighbouring countries as well of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The Permanent Representative of Rwanda and Chair of the 1970 Committee, Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana, updated Council members on the activities of the Libya sanctions committee and its Panel of Experts over the period from 10 December 2013 to 10 March 2014. He said the Panel had concluded in its final report that the proliferation of weapons from Libya remained a major challenge for stability within the country and the wider region. He also noted that the Panel had reported instances of Member States lacking the legislative capacity to implement asset-freeze measures.

The Permanent Representative of Libya stated that his Government would not tolerate attempts to export oil by illegitimate means. He expressed his hope that the Security Council would take a clear position in support of Libya's sovereignty over its territory and resources.

In consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General conveyed the request of the Libyan Prime Minister that the Security Council condemn the attempts by the *Morning Glory* to illicitly export crude oil. He also updated the Council on the steps being taken in order to deploy a guard unit to protect UNSMIL personnel and its premises.

Council members expressed concern over security developments in Libya. They condemned the attempts to illegally ship crude oil out of Libya. They also underlined the need to establish a national political dialogue. In an answer to a question by a Council member, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that international aid to Libya, though sizeable in volume, was being delivered in an uncoordinated manner.

On 14 March, the Council adopted resolution [2144 \(2014\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of UNSMIL until 13 March 2015, emphasizing its "good offices" role in support of Libya's political transition and its work on the management of unsecured arms and related materiel. By adopting resolution [2144 \(2014\)](#), the Council also renewed the Libya sanctions regime and extended until 13 April 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts assisting the Libya sanctions committee.

On 19 March, the Council adopted resolution [2146 \(2014\)](#) imposing measures on vessels designated by the Libya Sanctions Committee, which are transporting crude oil illicitly exported from Libya.

Sierra Leone

On 26 March, the Security Council held a briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone. The Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, briefed the Council on the final report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), in view of its final drawdown on 31 March 2014. He reported that the Secretary-General had marked the formal closure of the Mission on 5 March 2014 during his visit to Sierra Leone. Despite the significant progress made by the country in

consolidating peace and development, important challenges remained, for which the United Nations would stay engaged, notably through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2015-2018, which would serve as the United Nations strategy in Sierra Leone in support of the Government's Agenda for Prosperity. He called for continued international attention and support to the country, including through regional initiatives, drawing the attention of the Council also to the opportunity provided by its support for implementation of the strategy for cross-border security in the Mano River Union.

The Chair of the Sierra Leone country-specific Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, informed the Council of the continued support of the Commission to Sierra Leone, albeit in a lighter format, in order to help the country tackle the remaining obstacles to the consolidation of peace. In one year, the Configuration would conduct a new stock-taking exercise, with a view to Sierra Leone's exit from the agenda of the Commission, if appropriate at that time.

Council members agreed with the assessment made by the briefers: Sierra Leone had made remarkable progress in socioeconomic terms, as well as in terms of transitional justice, but much remained to be done in terms of addressing the root causes of the conflict. Challenges included the need for social and economic justice, in order to make all Sierra Leoneans benefit from the dividends of peace and development, the fight against corruption and transnational organized crime and the need to continue to strengthen political dialogue and the institutions of the State.

Samura M. W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, conveyed the appreciation of President Ernest Bai Koroma to the Security Council and the assurances that Sierra Leone would face its future and any remaining challenges with optimism and resilience.

At the end of the briefing, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement on the situation in Sierra Leone ([S/PRST/2014/6](#)) to mark the completion of the mandate of UNIPSIL.

Somalia

On 5 March, the Security Council adopted resolution [2142 \(2014\)](#) extending until 25 October 2014 the partial lifting of the embargo regarding arms intended for the Federal Government of Somalia.

On 11 March, the Council held a briefing, followed by consultations, on the situation in Somalia. Nicholas Kay, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), briefed the Council by video link from Mogadishu, introducing the quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandate of UNSOM ([S/2014/140](#)). He underlined that against the background of a deteriorating security situation in Mogadishu, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army had launched renewed operations against Al-Shabaab with initial notable success. He expressed cautious optimism about the efforts of the Government of Somalia to advance the processes of national reconciliation and towards federalism, the conclusion of the constitutional process, the rebuilding of security institutions and the strengthening of public finance management. The humanitarian and human rights situation, however, remained fragile.

Council members voiced their grave concern regarding the deterioration of the security situation, in particular in Mogadishu, and reiterated their support for UNSOM and for the renewed military operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army against Al-Shabaab. They emphasized the importance of post-conflict stabilization and service delivery in areas liberated from Al-Shabaab, and called for harmonization and coordination of military, stabilization and humanitarian activities. They underlined that 2014 would be a crucial year for Somalia if it was to achieve the milestones foreseen over the next two years, notably the finalization, by the Federal Government, of a detailed plan and timetable for the creation of Federal States, the adoption of the Constitution by December 2015 and the holding of legislative and presidential elections by 2016. Council members also underscored the importance for Member States to contribute to the trust fund established pursuant to resolution [2124 \(2013\)](#) to provide targeted support to front line units of the Somali National Army.

During consultations, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions [751 \(1992\)](#) and [1907 \(2009\)](#) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, Ambassador Oh Joon, presented his 120-day report to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 11 (g) of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#). During the reporting period, the Committee held informal consultations on 10 January and 21 February 2014. At the last meeting, the Monitoring Group shared its concerns about abuses in weapons and ammunition management and distribution by the Government of Somalia. The Chair of the Committee also informed Council members that he had organized two meetings between the Monitoring Group and representatives of the Government of Eritrea since his last briefing to the Security Council.

On 19 March, the Council adopted a press statement (SC/11331), in which its members condemned in the strongest terms the 18 March attack on a hotel in Bula Burde, Somalia, which had caused numerous deaths and injuries and for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility.

South Sudan

On 18 March, the Security Council was briefed on the situation in South Sudan. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, presented the report of the Secretary-General dated 6 March 2014 ([S/2014/158](#)), in which the Secretary-General asked the Council to consider the authorization of a temporary increase in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) military and police strength for a period of one year. The Secretary-General considered that there was a requirement for the Mission to reprioritize its activities and to focus in particular on the protection of civilians, the monitoring of human rights and the creation of security conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the areas most affected by the conflict. The Under-Secretary-General also informed Council members about the latest developments in the political talks and the mediation process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). He further noted that the IGAD Heads of State decided on 13 March to deploy a protection and deterrent force to ensure the protection of observers deployed under the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. IGAD had indicated that it would require financial support by the United Nations to deploy and sustain this force. The Under-Secretary-General deplored the negative campaign against UNMISS and its leadership in South Sudan, which seemed systematic and well

organized. In her briefing, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), said that women and girls had been exposed to heightened levels of violence, notably sexual violence and crime. She urged the Council to use its voice to ensure a more immediate response to support the people of South Sudan and stressed the need for accountability and reconciliation. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan also made a statement and assured the Council that the United Nations remained a major partner to South Sudan. He also expressed support for the work of UNMISS.

In consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMISS, Hilde Johnson, briefed Council members about the latest developments on the ground. The Special Representative noted that fighting was ongoing and would likely continue despite the imminent arrival of the rainy season. Concerning the humanitarian situation, she underlined that famine was looming. Referring to the risk of diseases owing to inappropriate hygiene conditions, she said that two of the UNMISS protection of civilian sites (Malakal and Tomping) could become “death traps” once the rainy season began. She further said that displaced people were afraid to go home and would remain in the protection of civilian sites unless the security situation improved. In this context, she considered that besides its protection of civilian tasks, the Mission would need to continue to work with the South Sudan National Police Service. In addition, she said that the Mission needed to prevent a spill-over of violence from States where fighting was taking place to those that were still experiencing stability. Council members took note of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations formulated therein. Many Council members expressed appreciation for the work of UNMISS under difficult circumstances. They underlined that the violations of the status-of-forces agreement and the harassment of United Nations personnel were unacceptable. Several members expressed deep concern about ongoing violations of the 23 January Cessation of Hostilities Agreement by the parties to the conflict. Many members also noted with concern the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Several members of the Council expressed concern at the widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and welcomed the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry by the African Union. Finally, Council members reiterated their full support for the IGAD-led mediation process and took note of the decision by IGAD to authorize the deployment of a protection force. Questions were however raised regarding the mandate of this regional force and possible support by the United Nations.

Sudan-Sudan/South Sudan

On 12 March, the Security Council held consultations on the relations between the Sudan and South Sudan and on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed on the latest developments in the relations between the two countries. He noted that those relations remained generally positive despite the crisis in South Sudan. However, owing to that crisis, the implementation of the September 2012 agreements had stalled. The Special Envoy also updated Council members on the negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) and on the humanitarian situation

in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. On 13 February, the talks between the parties had resumed under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel in Addis Ababa. However, the talks were suspended on 1 March, without an agreement and fighting was continuing in the two States.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei and on the implementation of the mandate of UNISFA (S/2014/126). He noted that the conflict in South Sudan had had a direct impact on the situation in Abyei, as evidenced by an increase in tensions between communities and a higher risk of security incidents. There had been no progress on the establishment of the interim institutions (Abyei Area Administration, Council and Police Service) or on the final status of Abyei. The Under-Secretary-General reported that about 1,000 South Sudanese security personnel remained in the Abyei Area, and that security incidents related to their deployment had been reported. The Sudan was also maintaining 120 to 150 police in the Diffra oil complex. The presence of these security forces represented a violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement and of numerous Security Council resolutions. The Under-Secretary-General also said that there had been no developments in the establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and that all Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism operations, including aerial monitoring and verification missions, remained suspended further to the decision of South Sudan to temporarily withdraw its monitors from the mechanism pending the resolution of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone centre line dispute. The Under-Secretary-General informed the Council that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations intends to conduct a strategic review of UNISFA to determine whether the mission is able to fulfil its mandate and is correctly configured for the current situation in Abyei and if adjustments are necessary.

Most Council members encouraged the Government of the Sudan to continue to exercise restraint in order to prevent any escalation. They also welcomed the support of the Sudan to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) efforts with a view to resolving the crisis in South Sudan. Some members regretted, however, that given the situation in South Sudan, no progress had been made in the implementation of the September 2012 agreements. All Council members expressed concern about the lack of results from the last session of negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N, while some of them attributed it to the rejection by SPLM-N of the proposals of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. Regarding the situation in the Abyei Area, most Council members strongly deplored the presence of South Sudanese security forces and Sudanese oil police in the area, and recalled that in its last press statement, dated 14 February 2014, the Council had demanded their immediate withdrawal.

On 17 March, the Council issued a press statement (SC/11321) in which its members expressed their grave concern about the highly volatile security and humanitarian situation in the Abyei Area. The press statement made reference to resolution 2046 (2012), which called upon the Sudan and South Sudan to implement pending aspects of the 20 June 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the security and administration of the Abyei Area. In the press statement, members of the Council also expressed their disappointment that the resumption of negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel ended in a deadlock.

On 12 March, in consultations, Council members received a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who presented the special report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/138) on the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), submitted in accordance with resolution 2113 (2013).

The Under-Secretary-General recalled that a joint assessment team, in coordination with the African Union and all relevant stakeholders, had conducted a comprehensive review and had analysed the conflict on the ground, the capacities of UNAMID and the key challenges to effective operations. Based on the review, the report of the Secretary-General had identified three strategic priorities for the Mission within its current mandate: (i) mediation between the Government and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, while taking into account ongoing transformation at the national level; (ii) the protection of civilians, the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; and (iii) support, in conjunction with the United Nations country team, to the mediation of community conflict, including through measures to address its root causes. The Under-Secretary-General underlined the critical role of UNAMID, given the volatile situation in Darfur, which had steadily deteriorated since the beginning of 2014. He concluded that the review of the strategic priorities should enable UNAMID to take up that challenge. Council members voiced concern about the deterioration of the security situation in Darfur over the course of 2013, in particular its impact on the civilian population. They also strongly condemned the attacks on UNAMID and underlined that all perpetrators must be held accountable. Most Council members welcomed the comprehensive review and the recommendations of the Secretary-General. They called for renewed efforts by UNAMID to fully implement the revised strategic priorities. Some members also called on the Government of the Sudan to enhance its cooperation with UNAMID, while others welcomed the recent progress in this regard. Council members expressed their support to UNAMID and underlined the critical role of the Mission for the protection of civilians and for helping to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict in Darfur.

Americas

Haiti

On 24 March, the Security Council held a debate on Haiti. Participants in the meeting were, along with Council members and the Permanent Representative of Haiti, the representatives of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and the European Union.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Sandra Honoré, presented the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Mission (S/2014/162).

Regarding the political situation in Haiti, the Special Representative explained that the promulgation of the electoral law and the signing of the El Rancho agreement, as a result of the inter-Haitian dialogue process, marked important steps towards the holding of elections in 2014. The overall security situation in Haiti had remained relatively stable and the performance of the Haitian National Police continued to improve. She furthermore expressed cautious optimism and renewed

hope concerning the economic situation and highlighted the progress made in post-earthquake reconstruction. The humanitarian situation had improved, but further challenges remained regarding tackling food insecurity, finding durable solutions for people still living in camps and dealing with the cholera epidemic. The Special Representative presented the five options for the United Nations presence in Haiti after 2016 that had been identified and proposed by the Secretary-General in his report. Council members welcomed the renewed political dialogue in Haiti and underlined the importance of holding elections before the end of the year. They also welcomed the progress made in post-earthquake reconstruction and on the humanitarian front, while acknowledging the remaining challenges. Many noted the need to make further progress in the field of rule of law, including judicial and prison reforms.

Many members of the Council noted the considerable progress made towards stabilizing Haiti since the deployment of the Mission in 2004 and acknowledged that the overall security situation remained relatively stable. They recognized the continued progress made with regard to the Haitian National Police. Some members of the Council concurred with the Secretary-General that an accelerated transition to a newly configured United Nations mission could be considered if conditions on the ground were favourable, while others cautioned that a careful calibration was needed to address the situation on the ground, emphasizing that Haiti remained fragile in many areas and that the gains made had to be preserved.

Prior to the debate, on 14 March, the Council held a private meeting with troop- and police-contributing countries to MINUSTAH. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Carl Alexandre, the Force Commander, General Edson Leal Pujol, and the Police Commissioner, Luis Miguel Carrilho, had an exchange of views with troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries on the situation in Haiti and on the potential impact of the MINUSTAH reconfiguration on the stabilization process in the country.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 17 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Ján Kubiš, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan, drawing on the report of the Secretary-General ([S/2014/163](#)).

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan said that the 5 April elections were to be seen as a defining moment leading to Afghanistan's first ever democratic transfer of power. He said the responsibility for credible polls would also rest with the candidates themselves, urging them to oppose fraud committed in their name and to seek redress for alleged electoral violations through institutional means. He welcomed assurances by the presidential candidates of their commitment to implement the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. He further said it was crucial to create employment opportunities and to encourage licit economic activity. He explained that drug production and trafficking were posing a threat to Afghan society and institutions and to the wider region. He underlined the value of regional cooperation and the need for active regional engagement in support of Afghanistan's stability. He noted that a breakthrough in direct talks with

the Taliban had failed to materialize so far. He concluded by saying that gains made in the field of human rights, including women's and children's rights, remained fragile and should not be traded for short-term political expediency.

The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan described the elections to be held on 5 April as an historic event marking the country's first peaceful transfer of power through a democratic process. He said that the electoral bodies were well positioned to prevent fraud and that Afghan security forces were intensifying efforts to ensure security on election day. He also said that regional cooperation, economic growth and cooperation with the international community would be crucial to address the challenges facing Afghanistan.

The Security Council adopted resolution [2145 \(2014\)](#) renewing the mandate of UNAMA for 12 months.

During the debate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and many Council members expressed condolences for the death of four United Nations staff members, as well as Afghan and international civilians, in the 17 January attack on the Taverna restaurant in Kabul. Council members highlighted the importance of the upcoming elections and said that security would have a major impact on the polls. They expressed concern about the increasing number of civilians, including children, killed and wounded in conflict. Some Council members stressed the importance of making progress against the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, including on human rights and women's rights. Council members also underscored the value of regional cooperation frameworks, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, as a key to strengthening the Afghan transition. Some Council members noted that narcotics posed threats to international peace and stability in different regions of the world. They said that growing opium production and trafficking were conducive to violence and corruption.

On 18 March, the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/11324) condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on the same day in Faryab province, which caused numerous deaths and injuries among civilians.

On 21 March, the Council issued a press statement (SC/11334), in which its members condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on 20 March 2014 at the Serena Hotel in Kabul, which caused a number of deaths and injuries to Afghan civilians, including children, and international personnel.

Europe

Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))

In the course of March, the Security Council held 8 meetings in relation to the item entitled "Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))".

On 1 March, the Security Council held a briefing followed by consultations of the whole, on the situation with regard to Ukraine. The Council was briefed by

Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, who echoed the grave concern of the Secretary-General about the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine, in particular in Crimea and in the east and the south of the country. He informed that following the reported deployment of additional Russian troops and armoured vehicles to Crimea, the Upper House of Parliament of the Russian Federation had approved a request of President Putin for Russian forces to be used in Ukraine, “pending the normalization of the public and political situation in that country”. He reiterated the call of the Secretary-General for the full respect for and preservation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and called for the immediate restoration of calm and direct dialogue between all concerned parties to resolve the crisis. The Permanent Representative of Ukraine, who participated in the public meeting, and four Council members spoke.

During the consultations that followed, members of the Security Council expressed grave concern about the rapidly deteriorating situation. They stressed the need for an urgent de-escalation of the situation, and reiterated their call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from actions and rhetoric that might exacerbate the situation. Many Council members referred to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, others to the 1997 bilateral agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The vast majority of Council members echoed the call of the Deputy Secretary-General for full respect for and preservation of the above-mentioned principles and underlined the importance of urgent international mediation efforts. One member of the Council stressed that the provisions of the 21 February Agreement should be implemented in order to avoid the deepening of the crisis. Finally, the members of the Security Council recalled the need for an inclusive political dialogue acknowledging the diversity of Ukrainian society and taking into account the aspirations of all Ukrainians and the need to respect the rights of all Ukrainians.

On 3 March, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Ukraine. The Permanent Representative of Ukraine participated in the meeting. The Council heard a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, who echoed the grave concern of the Secretary-General about the continuing tense situation and his call to de-escalate tensions immediately, as well as his appeal for direct dialogue between Kiev and Moscow. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs mentioned a continuing build-up of Russian troops in Crimea and that a number of Ukrainian military bases had been surrounded by Russian troops. He also recalled the position in this respect of the Russian Federation, which affirmed that these actions were carried out to defend its citizens and to ensure that human rights were respected. In addition, he noted that the situation in eastern Ukraine remained fluid, with reports of demonstrations in certain cities and attempts by local groups to seize control of some official buildings.

Members of the Council expressed their concern about the ongoing deterioration of the situation in Ukraine, in particular in Crimea. The vast majority of Council members reiterated the need for full respect for and preservation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and called for the immediate restoration of calm and direct dialogue between all concerned parties to resolve the crisis. Many Council members urged the Russian Federation to withdraw its military forces from Ukraine and stressed the importance of mediation. One Council member stated that the crisis in Ukraine was provoked by the State coup in

Kiev as a result of the armed takeover by radical extremists and that the decisions by a so-called government of victors, especially related to the language rights of minorities, had alarmed the authorities of eastern and southern Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, home to millions of Russians, who do not wish to see such developments in their regions.

On 6 March, the Council held consultations of the whole on the situation in Ukraine, during which it was briefed by the Deputy Secretary-General, by videoconference from Kiev, on the latest developments in Ukraine, including the visit by the Senior Adviser of the Secretary-General, Robert Serry, to Crimea. The Deputy Secretary-General underlined the very dangerous consequences the situation with regard to Ukraine could have for the stability of the region and beyond.

Members of the Council reiterated their grave concern about the ongoing crisis. Many members expressed support for a good offices mission by the Secretary-General, and welcomed the decision by the Secretary-General to dispatch the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonovic, to Ukraine. Many members condemned the threats against the Senior Adviser of the Secretary-General, which had occurred in Crimea and had forced him to leave the peninsula. The vast majority of Council members expressed the view that the decision of the Parliament of Crimea to hold a referendum on the legal status of Crimea was illegal. One Council member noted that the referendum reflected the historical aspirations of Crimeans.

On 10 March, the Council held a private meeting on the situation in Ukraine during which Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman briefed on recent developments in Ukraine, including the increasingly complex situation in Crimea, where the local authorities announced the holding of a referendum on the legal status of Crimea. He recalled the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe High Commissioner for National Minorities' statement that relations between ethnic groups on the peninsula were characterized by a growing climate of fear. He gave further explanations about the ongoing international efforts and United Nations activities aiming at a de-escalation of the tensions and the search for a lasting peaceful solution to the crisis. The Permanent Representative of Ukraine participated in the meeting and highlighted the dramatic events happening in Crimea, underlining especially that such a referendum, carried out illegally, would constitute a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. He also expressed concern about the deterioration of the freedom of media, the ongoing censorship and the intimidations against journalists.

Members of the Council reiterated their grave concern about the crisis, and many of them expressed the fear that the announcement of such a referendum might further exacerbate tensions on the Crimean peninsula. One Council member noted that the referendum reflected the historical aspirations of Crimeans. The vast majority of Council members reiterated their attachment to the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and called for a swift political solution to the crisis.

On 13 March, the Council held a briefing, chaired by the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, during which the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed on the latest developments in Ukraine and on the work of the United Nations regarding the ongoing crisis. The Under-Secretary-General echoed the concern of the Secretary-General about the deteriorating

situation in Crimea and the rising tensions in eastern Ukraine. He stressed that the announcement of the organization of a referendum on the status of Crimea had further complicated an already difficult and volatile situation.

The Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, participated in the meeting. He underlined that it was absolutely unacceptable, in the twenty-first century, to resolve any kind of conflict with tanks, artillery and boots on the ground. He urged the Russian Federation to pull back its military forces deployed in Crimea to their barracks and to engage in real negotiations in order to tackle the conflict. He furthermore underlined that Ukraine had abandoned its nuclear weapons in 1994, given the engagement by the signatories of the Budapest Memorandum to guarantee the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Ukrainian State.

Members of the Council shared the concern of the Secretary-General about the ongoing deterioration of the situation in eastern Ukraine and on the Crimean peninsula. They expressed support for the mediation efforts of the Secretary-General and called for a peaceful resolution of the crisis in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The vast majority of Council members expressed their support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. Many Council members expressed their concern about restrictions for international observers to enter Crimea. One Council member stated, with regard to the decision of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic to hold a referendum on the status of Crimea, that the manipulation of individual principles and norms of international law was unacceptable.

On 15 March, the Council proceeded to a vote on a draft resolution (S/2014/189) submitted by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. The draft resolution sought to reaffirm the Council's commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, to urge all parties to pursue immediately a peaceful resolution of its dispute and to declare that the referendum on the status of Crimea could have no validity and could not form the basis for any alteration of the status of Crimea. There were 13 votes in favour, 1 vote against (Russian Federation) and 1 abstention (China). The draft resolution was thus not adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Security Council.

On 19 March, the Council held a briefing on the situation with regard to Ukraine. The Deputy Secretary-General briefed the Council on recent developments in Ukraine following his mission to Kiev. He expressed concern about the situation on the Crimean peninsula and said that the international community was faced with risks of a dangerous further escalation of the situation that could have ramifications for international peace and security. He indicated that during his recent mission to Ukraine, he had stressed with all his interlocutors the importance of inclusive government and the need to preserve a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multilingual Ukraine. He explained that the Secretary-General had engaged with key actors with the aim of de-escalating the situation and had unfailingly urged dialogue and adherence to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, such

as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and ensuring the fulfilment of the human rights of all, with a particular focus on minorities.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights briefed Security Council members on his recent mission that led him to different regions of Ukraine and expressed regret that he had not been able to visit Crimea. He explained that chronic human rights violations were among the major reasons for the upheaval in Ukraine in recent months. For many years, there had been concerns about the weak rule of law, the lack of accountability and resulting impunity. With regard to protest-related violations from November 2013 to February 2014, he expressed deep concern about alleged gross human rights violations, including the excessive use of force and extrajudicial killings, torture, disappearances and arbitrary arrests and detentions. He said that the perpetrators of those and other human rights violations against all victims must be promptly brought to justice, whatever their background, status or affiliation, following independent, impartial and thorough investigations.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights indicated that he had urged all authorities he encountered during his mission to ensure inclusivity in governance and, while ensuring freedom of expression, to curb hate speech. He underlined the nature of Ukraine as a multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural country. Nationalistic rhetoric and policies would be counterproductive and would further deepen the internal dividing lines within society.

The Assistant Secretary-General also expressed serious concerns about the situation in Crimea, which remained tense with respect to the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of those who opposed the recent political events in Crimea. He explained that, in addition to cases of violence between various political Ukrainian and Russian groups, with the alleged participation of groups from outside of the region, resulting in deaths and injuries, the spreading of rumours, including through the media, particularly in eastern Ukraine, was adding to a sense of insecurity among the population.

Members of the Council expressed their support for the efforts of the Secretary-General to resolve the crisis by peaceful means. They affirmed that a solution had to be found that would respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Many members of the Security Council reaffirmed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and echoed the call of the Assistant Secretary-General for independent human rights monitors. Many Council members expressed concern about the deteriorating situation of human rights in Crimea and reiterated the concerns expressed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights regarding the situation of national minority groups, especially of the Crimean Tatars. One Council member expressed concern about what it considered the Assistant Secretary-General's one-sided assessment of the human rights situation in Ukraine. That Council member stated that, following the referendum, law and order had been maintained and Crimean authorities had guaranteed the rights of all minorities, without exception.

On 28 March, the Council held consultations of the whole following the visits of the Secretary-General to Russia and Ukraine. The Secretary-General explained that the President of the Russian Federation had assured him personally that Russia had no intention to move into the continental part of Ukraine. The Secretary-General described the situation as a critical moment for Ukraine and for efforts to maintain international peace and security. He expressed his concern about the deep rifts that

the crisis created in Ukraine, in the region and in the international community and underscored the need to urgently re-engage in constructive diplomacy. He underlined that the time had come for dialogue and peace and that both sides had to de-escalate tensions. Only a direct dialogue between Kiev and Moscow could contribute to easing the tensions and finding a way out of the crisis. He furthermore expressed concern with the potential negative impact of this crisis on the process of nuclear disarmament.

Members of the Council expressed support for the good offices of the Secretary-General aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. They echoed the calls of the Secretary-General for an urgent de-escalation of the crisis. Many members stressed the need to respect the territorial integrity, political independence, unity and sovereignty of Ukraine, in line with resolution 68/262, adopted by the General Assembly on 27 March 2014, and underlined that all United Nations personnel be given full and unhindered access to all parts of Ukraine, including Crimea. Most Council members expressed their support for the monitoring of human rights and for an international coordination mechanism as part of mediation efforts. Some Council members highlighted the precarious situation of national minorities in Crimea and asked for continued reporting on the situation in Ukraine to the Security Council. One Council member noted that the people of Crimea, through the holding of the referendum, had realized its right to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and that the decision by the overwhelming majority of Crimeans should be respected.

Middle East

Iraq

On 27 March, in his briefing before the Security Council based on the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (S/2014/190) and on the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including its national archives (S/2014/191), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI, Nickolay Mladenov, stressed that Iraq's future could not be considered in isolation of the broader challenges that the region was facing. As divisions continued to plague Iraqi politics, the ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic had added a regional dimension to sectarian tensions and was affording terrorist networks the occasion to forge links across the border and expand their support base. The situation was further compounded by unresolved constitutional issues that constantly brought to the fore the existing tensions between Iraq's communities. The country's security was strained by well-armed and well-trained terrorist groups with access to substantial financial resources. According to the Special Representative, their goal was clear: to establish a permanent foothold beyond the control of the authorities and consolidate a base for the expansion of their operations. The Special Representative underscored, in this regard, that while the United Nations would support Iraq's fight against terrorism, the challenges facing the people of Iraq could not be resolved without dialogue, social cohesion, increased development assistance, an independent judiciary and a modern public administration, the protection and advancement of human rights and the inclusion of those who felt marginalized.

The Special Representative further highlighted the importance of timely, transparent and credible national elections in late April 2014 and the importance to ensure the effective participation and representation of all Iraqis, including women, in the electoral process.

Turning to the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including its national archives, the Special Representative stated that, despite the sincerity, time and efforts that Iraq continued to invest in this humanitarian endeavour, he could report no new results. He argued that there were a number of ways in which UNAMI could assist in this issue, and he stressed the need to maintain the spotlight on this very important and sensitive humanitarian issue, so that it could be brought to closure, thus allowing both Iraq and Kuwait to turn the page.

During the ensuing consultations, members of the Council expressed great concern over the developments in Anbar province, in particular in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah. They condemned all terrorist attacks and all violence that aimed to further destabilize the country and the region. Council members stressed the importance for the Iraqi authorities, the local communities and the international community to strengthen their cooperation against violence and terror, and to help meet the security needs of all Iraqis. Council members emphasized the need for effective implementation of the Security Council Al-Qaida sanctions regime.

Council members also expressed strong support for the commitment of the Government of Iraq to the protection of the civilian population in Anbar province and elsewhere and to the provision of humanitarian relief, and encouraged the Iraqi authorities to continue working with the United Nations and humanitarian agencies to ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief.

Members of the Council also stressed that a national, inclusive dialogue of all political forces to address rising tensions and the root causes of Iraq's political and security instability would now be more urgently needed than ever. They highlighted the need for democratic processes in Iraq to prevail despite the security challenges, and the need for parties to remain committed to holding the parliamentary elections throughout Iraq on 30 April.

Finally, Council members discussed the issue of the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains, and the return of Kuwaiti property, including its national archives. Council members regretted, in this regard, that no substantial progress had been achieved in the course of the last few months. They expressed the hope that efforts would be increased in order to resolve this issue.

Lebanon

On 25 March, the Security Council was briefed in consultations on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) by Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly and Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmond Mulet, who presented the main findings of the most recent report of the Secretary-General ([S/2014/130](#)).

Both briefers informed Council members that the situation in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operations had remained generally calm, reflecting the continuing commitment of the parties to the cessation of hostilities. They also stressed that the Force continued to play a crucial role in

ensuring stability in southern Lebanon, highlighting the positive impact of coordination and liaison arrangements. However, it was noted that the threats to Lebanon's security and stability resulting from the war in the Syrian Arab Republic had grown significantly.

Members of the Council took note of the relative calm that had prevailed in the UNIFIL area of operations across southern Lebanon over the past four months. It was, however, acknowledged that this calm was very fragile, as had been demonstrated by security incidents in December 2013, in which one Israeli soldier was shot and killed by a Lebanese Armed Forces soldier from across the Blue Line in an individual act. Members of the Council hence stressed the need for all parties to fully cooperate with the Special Coordinator and UNIFIL and to focus on all outstanding issues in the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

Members of the Council reaffirmed their commitment to stability in Lebanon and underscored their growing concern at the marked increase in cross-border fire from the Syrian Arab Republic and in terrorist acts and acts of violence across Lebanon. They urged all parties to promote dialogue, to preserve Lebanon's unity, to reject extremism and violence, to commit to Lebanon's policy of dissociation, enshrined in the Baabda Declaration, and to withdraw from fighting in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Many Council members also underscored the immense burden the Syrian conflict was placing on Lebanon and the need for adequate burden sharing. They commended Lebanon's generosity in hosting nearly 1 million officially registered refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic and stressed the need to look for ways to further assist Lebanon in dealing with this situation.

Against the backdrop of negative developments in the region affecting Lebanon, Security Council members warmly welcomed the announcement on 15 February 2014 of the formation of the Government led by Tammam Salam. They expressed the hope that the new Government, approved on 20 March by Parliament, would put the country in a better position to tackle its immediate economic, security and humanitarian challenges. Many Council members also stressed the ongoing need for strong, coordinated international support for Lebanon to help it withstand these multiple challenges. They welcomed the efforts of the International Support Group for Lebanon and the statement adopted by the Group at its second meeting held in Paris on 5 March 2014. Some Council members also stressed the importance for the preparations for the presidential electoral process to proceed immediately, in line with Lebanon's constitutional procedures and democratic practice.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 18 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. The briefing was followed by consultations of the whole.

The Under-Secretary-General stated that eight months since the resumption of talks between Israelis and Palestinians, United States-led efforts to present a basis for continued negotiations were ongoing. The time for important decisions — by the Israeli and Palestinian leadership — was fast approaching. These decisions were becoming increasingly urgent, given the worrying trends in the West Bank and in Gaza.

The Under-Secretary-General also indicated that according to data collected by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, construction in the settlements more than doubled in 2013 compared to 2012. He recalled that continued settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territory was contrary to international law and an obstacle to peace.

Turning to Gaza, the Under-Secretary-General underscored that the underpinnings of the ceasefire agreement of 21 November 2012 continued to be undermined. He stressed that a dangerous escalation of violence took place between 11 and 13 March, with more than 70 rockets and 5 mortar shells indiscriminately fired towards Israel. Israel conducted 15 airstrikes into Gaza in March. The Under-Secretary-General underscored that incitement, whatever its source, poisoned the atmosphere for peace.

During the ensuing consultations, Council members shared the view that the discussions between Israelis and Palestinians had reached a critical and crucial stage, and that efforts would have to be continued to reach a final-status agreement in view of implementing the two-State solution.

Accordingly, members of the Council stressed that all parties should refrain from actions that undermined trust, fed scepticism and made the peace talks only more difficult. Most Council members condemned the continued Israeli settlement activities as illegal, and the provocations in and around the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, including by Israeli officials, which only fuelled tensions. Council members expressed serious concern about actions that could potentially undermine the status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem. Council members also expressed grave concern regarding incitement, incidents of violence and demolitions in the West Bank, and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, urging parties to cooperate in expanding access for people, goods and humanitarian supplies. Council members also condemned the unacceptable rocket attacks from Gaza.

On the Syrian Arab Republic, many Council members reiterated comments made during the consultations with the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League for Arab States for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, on 13 March. They recalled the deepening humanitarian tragedy in the Syrian Arab Republic and underlined the urgency to implement Security Council resolution [2139 \(2014\)](#). They stressed that only a political solution could bring the conflict to an end, hence the importance of the Geneva talks and the need for the parties, especially the delegation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, to start demonstrating a constructive attitude on the issue of the implementation of the 30 June 2012 Geneva communiqué.

The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 5 March, the Security Council was briefed in consultations by 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 fifth monthly report of the Director-General of OPCW and the letter dated 27 February of the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of Security Council resolution 2118 ([S/2014/133](#)).

The Special Coordinator explained that the Syrian authorities had advanced preparations and intensified their efforts to expedite the removal of chemical

weapons material. During the last eight days, the Syrian authorities had carried out four additional movements of chemical weapons material to Ladhqiyah for onward transportation out of the country. In addition to the removal operations, the Syrian Arab Republic also made progress destroying in country nearly all its stockpile of isopropanol. Some 93 per cent were destroyed ahead of the timeline; however, 7 per cent of the isopropanol stockpile remained in one site deemed inaccessible by the Syrian authorities, owing to security conditions.

The Special Coordinator further indicated that some 35 per cent of the declared chemical weapons material of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had been either removed from its territory or destroyed. By the middle of the following week, the Joint Mission expected that figure to increase to 41 per cent, including isopropanol destruction. That number was expected to rise to 45 per cent by mid-March. The Special Coordinator requested, in this regard, the constructive cooperation and intensification of efforts by the Syrian Arab Republic. She also stressed that although much had been achieved over the last period, a majority of chemical weapons material remained inside the Syrian Arab Republic beyond the intermediate timelines set out by the OPCW Executive Council.

The Special Coordinator also stressed that, at the request of the OPCW Director-General and the Joint Mission, the Syrian Arab Republic had submitted a sequenced plan detailing its schedule of movements from storage sites to the port of Ladhqiyah. After consultations with the OPCW Operational Planning Group and with the Joint Mission, the Syrian authorities had submitted a revised plan, which reduced the schedule of operations from 100 days to 60 days. In accordance with that plan, full removal of all chemical weapons and material would be achieved before the end of April 2014. The Special Coordinator emphasized that the month of March would be critical for the implementation of the timeline and the successful implementation of Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#). The Joint Mission would therefore continue to impress upon its interlocutors the importance of systematic, predictable and volume-based movements at this critical juncture.

Security Council members acknowledged recent developments, such as the pre-positioning of the majority of packaging and loading equipment at identified sites, the destruction of 93 per cent of the declared amount of isopropanol inside the Syrian Arab Republic, and the additional movements of chemical weapons material from a number of sites to Ladhqiyah and their removal from the Syrian Arab Republic by sea.

Security Council members were informed of the new timeline for the removal of chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic by mid and late April. Council members stressed that these commitments must be adhered to and that the agreed milestones of April and the complete elimination deadline of 30 June must be met. Council members expressed their intention to follow closely the effective cooperation between the Syrian authorities and the Joint Mission.

On 13 March, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League for Arab States for Syria on the difficulties in narrowing the gap between the two Syrian delegations — one from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the other from the Syrian Opposition — during the two rounds of talks held in the framework of the Geneva conference on the Syrian Arab Republic, in January and February 2014.

The Joint Special Representative recalled certain aspects of the situation on the ground in the Syrian Arab Republic. He stressed that the scope of the economic and humanitarian catastrophe in the Syrian Arab Republic was mind-boggling, with close to 10 million people in need of aid to simply survive. More than three years of bitter conflict had placed the Syrian Arab Republic on the cusp of colossal destruction that could see it become a failed State by 2015. The poverty rate may have reached 40 per cent, up from 13 per cent in 2010. The Syrian conflict had thus far cost the country more than three decades of development. If the conflict were to continue at the present rate, one should expect the refugees to number 4 million by the end of 2014, and the number of the dead to reach 350,000.

While commending the admirable hospitality of the neighbours of the Syrian Arab Republic and the generous solidarity of the donor community, the Joint Special Representative stressed that these efforts would not provide a lasting solution to a catastrophe of this magnitude. Only a political solution would. His assessment was that neither side would achieve a decisive military victory in 2014. The resilience of the armed opposition, and the continued support it received from its backers, as well as the still significant support it received from the civilian population, prevented the Syrian authorities from eradicating it even from the major cities, including Damascus and Aleppo. On the other hand, the mobilization of a large number of militias and foreign fighters, including fighters from Hizbullah, significantly helped the Syrian authorities to make new gains in late 2013.

In addition, starting from mid-December, Aleppo witnessed massive use of barrel bombs targeting the civilian population indiscriminately. This allowed the Syrian authorities to achieve important territorial gains in eastern Aleppo, near the Nayrab airport base, and to continue their advances in north-east Aleppo city. According to the Joint Special Representative, if the Government were to continue its advances in this area, it might impose on the old city of Aleppo a siege similar to the one it imposed on the old city of Homs. He argued, in this regard, that the Syrian authorities' strategy of besieging cities and neighbourhoods proved more successful than direct military action. Sieges and starvation were being used as a means of war, leaving communities with no choice other than agreeing to fragile truces.

The Joint Special Representative further pointed out the particular significance of an impressively large number of ceasefires, pauses or other types of agreements arrived at or being negotiated by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic with some armed groups and communities, mainly around Damascus. He recalled that, by the end of February 2014, it was believed that around 20 such local agreements were reached. Observers inside and outside the Syrian Arab Republic, however, expressed doubts about the viability of these ad hoc agreements, suggesting that local armed groups and civilian populations were "starved into surrender", and that challenges surfaced shortly following the conclusion of some of these agreements.

On the political front, the Joint Special Representative stressed that, during the first round of discussions in Geneva, his aim had been to keep the two Syrian parties, the Government and Opposition delegations, in the room. That aim had been achieved. Yet, there was no political dialogue on substance between them. Neither side extended an open hand to the other. The Government delegation viewed the issue of terrorism as its top priority, if not the only subject they were ready to discuss. The Opposition delegation embraced the Geneva communiqué and was focused on what they hoped would be a quick implementation of its main provision:

the formation of a Transitional Governing Body, which would take over from the present Administration.

On 19 February, both parties had resumed their meetings on the basis of an agenda put forward by the Joint Special Representative. This agenda included four points: (a) ending violence and fighting terrorism; (b) the Transitional Governing Body; (c) national reconciliation and national dialogue; and (d) national institutions between continuity and change. The Joint Special Representative stressed that he proposed to have agenda items (a) and (b) discussed in parallel. The Opposition delegation agreed with this proposal; the Government delegation did not. It demanded that the items of the agenda be discussed in succession and insisted that the issue of terrorism be discussed until some common ground on terrorism was achieved and agreed. According to the Joint Special Representative, the Government delegation created a clear impression that their demands were delaying tactics. Discussions were going nowhere.

The second round turned out to be worse than the first one. The Joint Special Representative therefore decided to put an end to the last meeting and invited both delegations to reflect on how the Geneva process could be energized. In his view, a third round of talks would only make sense if there were to be a genuine political will to negotiate.

The Joint Special Representative also argued, in this regard, that presidential elections in the Syrian Arab Republic in the present circumstances would slam the door on negotiations for the foreseeable future. Another seven-year term for Bashar al-Assad would not put an end to the unbearable suffering of the Syrian people, stop the destruction of the country, and re-establish harmony and mutual confidence in the region.

During the consultations, members of the Council expressed their full support to the Joint Special Representative and to his agenda of four points for the resumption of the talks. They also stated their support for a resumption of the talks in Geneva based on a genuine engagement by all parties to implement comprehensively the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012.

There were, however, differences of views on how the talks should be sequenced going forward, and on how the first two points, namely, ending violence and fighting terrorism and the setting up of the Transitional Governing Body, should be tackled. A clear majority of Council members stressed that the blockage in the process was due to the unwillingness of the Syrian authorities to accept the sequencing approach proposed by the Joint Special Representative. These members also reiterated the centrality of the Transitional Governing Body, with full executive powers, formed by mutual consent, to implement the transition foreseen in the Geneva communiqué.

Many Council members also shared the view of the Joint Special Representative that the Syrian authorities' plans to hold presidential elections in the coming months were incompatible with the Geneva process. Elections would render this process moot, in particular, the requirement to form a Transitional Governing Body. Others stressed the importance of including the terrorism issue on the agenda of negotiations, called for the immediate resumption of the Geneva process and the convening of a third round of negotiations.

On 28 March, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator on the first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/208).

The Under-Secretary-General described the continued violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including aerial bombings, shelling, mortars and use of car bombs in populated areas, causing mass civilian deaths and injuries.

The Under-Secretary-General also highlighted the ongoing efforts of the United Nations to secure greater access to hard-to-reach and besieged areas. As part of these efforts, a list of priority locations was provided to the Syrian authorities, with a focus on 29 priority locations and 3 Governorates for urgent access to reach 1.8 million Syrians. The Under-Secretary-General stressed that 21 United Nations inter-agency cross-line convoy requests were made since the adoption on 22 February of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). Of these, only 13 were approved, of which 5 succeeded, delivering assistance to 177,000 people or approximately 5 per cent of the 3.5 million people living in hard-to-reach areas.

Almost 201,000 people were denied medical assistance as a result of convoys that did not take place or because medicines and medical supplies were removed from inter-agency convoys. Only 14,600 people, just over 6 per cent, of the 240,000 people living in besieged areas received assistance during the reporting period. Many United Nations requests for access to besieged locations remained unanswered or were denied.

The Under-Secretary-General stressed that all States with influence on the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic must continue to use this influence to facilitate humanitarian access, to protect civilians and to lift the sieges that were being used to control communities, in total contravention of international humanitarian law. The Under-Secretary-General further insisted that a steep change in humanitarian delivery was gravely needed. The current piecemeal approach, despite the efforts of humanitarian workers on the ground, was not delivering change fast enough. Administrative procedures for regular aid distributions and convoys would need to be streamlined, and blanket approvals would need to be granted to the United Nations. She also stated that the United Nations and its partners must be allowed to bring medicine and other medical supplies to all areas in the country, including hard-to-reach and besieged areas.

On the issue of cross-border assistance, the Under-Secretary-General stressed that full and unhindered access, through the most efficient and direct means, must include access across all relevant crossing points. She argued that resolution 2139 (2014) did not leave room for further interpretation or negotiation by any of the parties, or reason to deny access to civilians any longer. She further stated, in this regard, that the rules of international humanitarian law were clear: the continued withholding of consent to cross-border or cross-line relief operations, particularly of commodities privileged throughout the Geneva Conventions and their protocols, like food, water, medical treatment and supplies or shelter, was arbitrary and unjustified.

During the consultations, most Council members stressed that the key demands contained in resolution 2139 (2014) had not been met. Deep regret was expressed at the fact that little, if any, progress had been achieved in facilitating humanitarian

assistance to those in need, in particular in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. Many Council members insisted on the following facts: the continued attacks against heavily populated civilian areas using barrel bombs and shelling; the increase of terrorist activities, including the recent seizure by Jabhat al-Nusra and other groups of the town of Kassab, that resulted in the displacement of thousands of people; the persistent sieges of approximately 240,000 civilians throughout the Syrian Arab Republic; the lack of new ceasefires or local truces; the continuation of serious administrative hurdles; and the systematic removal of medical supplies from humanitarian convoys. In addition, while the opening of the border with Turkey at the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing was welcomed by many Council members as an important first step, most also stressed that this only addressed a fraction of the needs for cross-border assistance, since it concerned only one of the eight crossings that the United Nations had identified as a priority.

Some Council members recalled that in resolution [2139 \(2014\)](#), it had expressed its intent to take further steps in the case of non-compliance with that resolution. Those members stressed that, should the Syrian authorities continue to ignore resolution [2139 \(2014\)](#), they would fully intend to uphold that commitment.

The need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights was reiterated by many Council members and support was expressed by some members for a referral of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to the International Criminal Court.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 26 March, the Security Council was briefed in consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the previous three months, on the basis of the most recent report of the Secretary-General ([S/2014/199](#)).

The Assistant Secretary-General expressed concern about the continuing deterioration of the security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and its potential implications for the stability of the UNDOF area of operations and the wider region. The ongoing military activities in the area of separation, with the use of heavier weapons, such as barrel bombs, continued to have the potential to heighten tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, undermining the long-held ceasefire between those two countries. He called on all parties to the Syrian conflict to cease military operations throughout the country, including in the UNDOF area of operations, recalling that there should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF. The Assistant Secretary-General also expressed deep concern over the activities of some members of the extremist opposition groups in the UNDOF area of operations.

The Assistant Secretary-General also reported on instances where United Nations convoys were fired upon by extremist opposition groups and the Syrian armed forces. He reiterated that the primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel in the areas of separation and limitation on the Bravo side rested with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Council members expressed their concern about the deteriorating security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, which had continued to disrupt UNDOF

activities in its area of operations. They stressed that ongoing military activities had the potential to heighten tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and to jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries. Council members reiterated that there should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF. They stressed that any action that might jeopardize the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers on the ground must immediately end.

Many Council members also expressed grave concern at the use of heavier weapons by the parties to the Syrian conflict, the increased use of air power by the Syrian Government forces, the use of barrel bombs and the use of improvised explosive devices. Council members also strongly rejected acts of violence committed by extremist armed opposition groups; the decapitation of five soldiers was condemned by all.

Council members expressed their gratitude to the troop-contributing countries — namely Fiji, the Philippines, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands — for their important contributions to UNDOF and for staying the course under challenging circumstances. Council members also thanked Member States for their contributions to the Observer Group Golan from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Yemen

On 25 March, the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/11336), in which the members of the Security Council strongly condemned the terrorist attack on 24 March in Hadramawt, Yemen, which killed 20 soldiers.

Other issues

Children and armed conflict

On 7 March, the Council held an open debate on children and armed conflict chaired by the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn. The Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and a former child soldier from Sierra Leone, Alhaji Babah Sawaneh, briefed the Council. Along with the 15 members of the Council, more than 40 delegations participated in the open debate. The objective of the open debate was to encourage reflection on ways and means to make progress towards the full implementation of the children and armed conflict agenda. A concept note had been circulated in order to help steer the discussion on the subject.

In his statement, the Secretary-General said that the draft resolution prepared for the open debate provided valuable new impetus to the work of the Council to protect children in armed conflict. He also called upon Member States to intensify efforts to ensure that perpetrators of grave violations against children were brought to justice. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict presented the situation of children in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Central African Republic and South Sudan. She welcomed the endorsement of the "Children, Not Soldiers" campaign launched on 6 March 2014 in association with UNICEF. The Executive Director of UNICEF emphasized the importance of both prevention of recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and their reintegration, underlining that educating and training those children was an

investment in the future of the concerned countries. Alhaji Babah Sawaneh, who was forcefully abducted and conscripted into an armed group at the age of 10, shared his story with the Council.

The Council adopted unanimously resolution [2143 \(2014\)](#), which underlines the importance of capacity-building in the effective implementation of child protection measures. The resolution welcomes the campaign “Children, Not Soldiers” initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF. It stresses the need to exclude genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children from amnesty laws and other similar provisions. The resolution emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children and highlights in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute. It calls for the establishment of age assessment mechanisms to prevent underage recruitment and stresses the importance of ensuring universal birth registration. The resolution recognizes that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law may render them legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children’s and teachers’ safety and children’s education, urges all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools in accordance with international humanitarian law and encourages Member States to consider concrete measures to deter the use of schools by armed forces and armed non-State groups in contravention of applicable international law. The resolution further recommends that United Nations entities and United Nations peacekeeping troop- and police-contributing countries undertake targeted and operational trainings for the preparation of United Nations mission personnel on their contribution in preventing violations against children so as to give all mission personnel the ability to effectively recognize, report and respond to violations and abuses committed against children.

Fight against terrorism

On 2 March, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/11304), in which its members condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on 1 March 2014 in Kunming Train Station, China, which caused numerous deaths and injuries of innocent civilians.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

On 5 March, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2141 \(2014\)](#), renewing until 5 April 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) pertaining to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. In the resolution, the Council requested the Panel to submit to the Council a midterm report by 5 September 2014 and a final report by 5 March 2015. The Council further urged all States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#) and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#), [1874 \(2009\)](#), [2087 \(2013\)](#) and [2094 \(2013\)](#).

On 27 March, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on recent ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He informed the Council that, according to information from several Member States, on 26 March, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched two medium-range Nodong ballistic missiles from an area north of Pyongyang, which landed in the waters off the east coast of the Korean peninsula. He added that such launches are in violation of Security Council resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#), [1874 \(2009\)](#), [2087 \(2013\)](#) and [2094 \(2013\)](#). Since 21 February, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had launched or fired altogether approximately 77 rockets, missiles and projectiles, including short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, all of which were believed to have fallen into the sea over international or territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Several Member States, including members of the Council, had issued statements, calling for de-escalation. The Under-Secretary-General reported that the Secretary-General continued to be concerned about new launches of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which were contrary to building trust in the region. The Secretary-General had continued to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease its ballistic missile activities and focus on the necessary dialogue and diplomacy to maintain regional peace and stability.

Many Council members considered the launches to be a serious threat that risked undermining international and regional stability, as well as irresponsibly causing a grave risk to the safety of air and maritime navigation given the absence of any prior warning. They condemned the launches as a violation of relevant Security Council resolutions that called for a swift, unequivocal and firm response by the Council. Some members also recalled that, in paragraph 36 of resolution [2094 \(2013\)](#), the Council had expressed its determination to take further significant measures in the event of a further launch or nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, adding that inaction by the Council would bear the risk of leading the country to miscalculations that would only exacerbate the tensions. Other Council members declared that the situation on the Korean peninsula remained highly complex, and called on all the parties to increase their efforts aimed at reducing the tensions, including refraining from conducting large-scale military exercises, in order to resolve any differences through dialogue and diplomacy. The response of the Council, they said, should be appropriate, measured and proportional to the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as conducive to the resumption of the six-party talks.

Council members agreed on elements for the press that were read out by the President following the consultations. The press elements condemned the ballistic missile launches 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 stated the agreement of Council members to consult on an appropriate response.

Non-proliferation/Islamic Republic of Iran

On 20 March, the Security Council was briefed by the Permanent Representative of Australia in his capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1737 \(2006\)](#) on the work of the Committee during the period from 13 December 2013 to 19 March 2014.

The Chair informed members that, during the reporting period, the Committee had held two informal meetings and one informal-informal meeting, and had performed its duties through the no-objection procedure. He highlighted the communications of the Committee with Member States and international organizations on matters of implementation and compliance, adding that providing guidance in these areas was a critical dimension of the Committee programme of work. During the reporting period, the Committee had responded to requests for guidance from Member States and an international organization on a range of issues. He also highlighted the work of the Committee on reports from Member States of action they had taken to enforce the sanctions measures and incident reports from the Panel of Experts following the investigation of such cases. He reported that, in 2013, the Committee had reached out to the Islamic Republic of Iran twice in relation to incidents investigated by the Panel, in relation to the unanimous conclusion of the Panel that the missile launches of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the Great Prophet 7 exercises contravened paragraph 9 of resolution [1929 \(2010\)](#) and in relation to the Panel conclusion that an intercepted arms shipment in Yemen was at the very least a probable violation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of paragraph 5 of resolution [1747 \(2007\)](#). He noted that, while the Islamic Republic of Iran still had not replied, the Committee continued to call on it to do so. He also reported that the Committee continued to consider its response to the Panel report, which had concluded that the attempted procurement of carbon fibre in December 2012 by the Islamic Republic of Iran contravened the resolutions. He further informed the Council of the outcome of the Committee deliberations on the Panel recommendations to the Committee contained in its report of May 2013. Finally, he declared that although the Committee was mindful of ongoing talks between China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (E3+3) and the Islamic Republic of Iran following the Joint Plan of Action agreed in Geneva on 24 November 2013, the work of both the Committee and the Panel of Experts remained unchanged for 2014. He recalled that the Security Council measures imposed by resolutions [1737 \(2006\)](#), [1747 \(2007\)](#), [1803 \(2008\)](#) and [1929 \(2010\)](#) remained in effect, and that Member States continued to have an obligation to implement them.

Many Council members welcomed the Joint Plan of Action agreed in Geneva on 24 November 2013 and the positive momentum created by recent diplomatic efforts. They expressed their hope that the ongoing dialogue between E3+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran would yield a long-term and sustainable solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Some Council members considered that the dual track approach, consisting of a sanctions regime and parallel negotiations, was bearing fruit, but that the clarification by the Islamic Republic of Iran of all pending questions related to a possible military dimension of its nuclear programme remained essential in order to restore confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of that programme. Some Council members also recalled that the Council measures remained in place and needed to be rigorously applied so as to maintain pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran to engage in the negotiations in good faith. They called on the Committee and the Panel of Experts to continue their work in helping States implement the sanctions and to act decisively on incidents of non-compliance. A number of Council members noted that alleged sanctions violations by the Islamic Republic of Iran remained a cause of grave concern and highlighted in this context the interception of a large shipment of conventional arms on board the vessel *Klos-C*. Other Council members declared that sanctions were not an end in

themselves and that given the delicate situation the Committee and the Panel should adopt a prudent and objective approach. They stressed that cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had resulted in encouraging progress; they expressed their hope that IAEA could draw the Iranian dossier to a close in the near future and cooperate with that country in the normal way.

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 19 March, the Security Council held a briefing on post-conflict peacebuilding. The Deputy Secretary-General briefed the Council on the progress made in the implementation of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict (A/67/499-S/2012/746), following the presidential statement of 20 December 2012 (S/PRST/2012/29). In his briefing, he stressed the peacebuilding priority areas of inclusivity, institution-building and the need for sustained international support and mutual accountability, along with the horizontal importance of gender-responsive peacebuilding and the inclusion of women in peace processes, citing examples from the United Nations activities in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Yemen. The Deputy Secretary-General appealed to the Council to take advantage of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2015 to shape the kind of Peacebuilding Commission that would be relevant, catalytic and effective, working in the interests of the States on its agenda.

The Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, underlined the successes of the Commission in the countries on its agenda, emphasizing the need for deepening analysis, supported by country examples, of how the United Nations collective and diversified efforts across the security and socioeconomic spectrum of post-conflict response could contribute to long-term peacebuilding objectives. He noted that this would in turn allow the Commission to better focus its work as an advisory body to the Security Council and its support to the United Nations leadership in the field. He also announced that the Commission would convene its first-ever annual session in June 2014, to discuss how the Commission could improve the situation of people in countries emerging from conflict.

In her briefing, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Under-Secretary-General Helen Clark advocated a more inclusive approach to peacebuilding, through the engagement and participation of all social groups and meaningful participation by women, youth and other marginalized groups. In the light of the inherently risky nature of post-conflict contexts, she called for better integration of risk management in peacebuilding approaches and presented pooled funding as one practical way to share and jointly manage risk. She mentioned the example of the multi-partner trust funds in Mali and Somalia, which had recently been established by the United Nations to enable donors to channel funding towards the programmes that may be more difficult for individual donors to support directly.

In their interventions, Council members addressed the priority areas set out in the report of the Secretary-General and broadly shared the assessment of the Deputy Secretary-General. They called for better coordination and coherence of peacebuilding activities and for sustained and predictable funding. While some

Council members noted that post-conflict peacebuilding assistance must respect the national ownership and sovereignty and be provided based on local specificities and country-determined priorities, as well as focused on addressing economic and social challenges in order to remove deeply rooted causes of the conflict, one Council member warned that “advancing the importance of national ownership is the wrongful application of ordinary development practices to a context that is markedly different”. A number of Council members also touched upon the Peacebuilding Commission, indicating their readiness to participate in the upcoming 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Some members stressed the need to widen the scope of this review so as to include peacebuilding activities undertaken by the United Nations funds and programmes and other relevant actors. Members of the Council expressed their views on how best to prevent relapse into conflict, notably in the light of the situations in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and South Sudan.

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

On 31 March, the presidency organized a private meeting of the Security Council in implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507) (“wrap-up session”) with the objective to assess how, in the course of the month, the Council had carried out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, and to identify ways to improve the effectiveness of the action of the Council in the future. The members of the Security Council were thus invited not only to review the activities of March, but also to make a forward-looking analysis of the action the Council could undertake, including with a view to conflict prevention.

Council members raised a broad spectrum of issues, reflecting on the wide array of subject matters discussed during the month of March. The main themes touched upon, in line with the provisions of the concept note prepared by the presidency, were the following:

- Several Council members expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in certain country-specific agenda items. In the case of Sierra Leone, most Council members welcomed the positive evolution of the situation, which had allowed the complete drawdown of UNIPSIL by the end of March. In the same vein, Council members welcomed progress made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the resolute action of MONUSCO, but highlighted the need for continued engagement against armed groups as part of a broader strategy to stabilize the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region. Council members also welcomed the renewal of the mandate of UNAMA, and underscored the need for its continued presence and support in view of the upcoming elections, which could represent a key step for the stabilization of Afghanistan.
- Regarding thematic issues, Council members welcomed the unanimous adoption of resolution [2143 \(2014\)](#) on children and armed conflict and the organization of the briefing on progress made in the implementation of the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict.
- Most Council members expressed concern regarding several country situations showing a negative trend in March. They expressed alarm regarding

developments in Ukraine, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic, among others.

- One Council member focused its intervention on the methods of work of the Council, suggesting a certain number of concrete measures aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the work of the Security Council.

Besides Council members, 59 Member States, the European Union, the Observer State of Palestine and the Observer State of the Holy See participated in this private meeting of the Security Council.
