



Security Council

Sixty-third year

5935th meeting

Wednesday, 16 July 2008, 1.15 p.m.

New York

Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Le Luong Minh	(Viet Nam)
<i>Members:</i>	Belgium	Mr. Van Kemseke
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Somdah
	China	Mr. La Yifan
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Scračić
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Trambajolo
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Bayley
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.



The meeting was called to order at 1.15 p.m.

Expression of farewell to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

The President: As this is the last appearance in the Security Council of Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno in his capacity as Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, I wish, on behalf of the members of the Council, to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Guéhenno for his outstanding and dedicated service to the work of the United Nations, in particular as regards peacekeeping and related matters. Throughout both times of relative stability and times of change and crisis on the ground, the knowledge and insights Mr. Guéhenno has shared with the members of the Council have been invaluable. For that we are immensely grateful. In saying farewell to him, we wish Mr. Guéhenno all the best for his professional and personal well-being.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Rwanda and Uganda, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ndabarasa (Rwanda) and Mr. Butagira (Uganda) took seats at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

“The Security Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the attack on 8 July 2008 on an African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) military and police convoy in Um Hakibah by 200 fighters on horses and in 40 vehicles, using sophisticated weaponry and tactics, which resulted in the deaths of 7 peacekeepers and a further 22 United Nations/African Union personnel being wounded. This unacceptable act of extreme violence is the largest attack on UNAMID since the transfer of authority from the African Union Mission in Sudan on 31 December 2007. The Council is particularly concerned that the attack was premeditated, deliberate and intended to inflict casualties.

“The Security Council welcomes the United Nations investigation under way and the Government of the Sudan's statement to assist the United Nations investigation. It calls on the Government of the Sudan to do its utmost to ensure that the perpetrators of the attack are swiftly identified and brought to justice. The Council underlines its determination to take action against those responsible after hearing the outcome of UNAMID's investigation.

“The Security Council expresses its condolences to the Governments of Rwanda, Ghana and Uganda for the deaths of their peacekeepers and to the victims' families. It commends the dedication of UNAMID personnel. The Council stresses that any attack or threat against UNAMID is unacceptable, and demands that there be no reoccurrence. It underlines that attacks on United Nations peacekeepers during an armed conflict can constitute war crimes under applicable international law and calls upon all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

“The Security Council calls on all parties to agree to a cessation of hostilities, to engage fully and constructively in the political process under the leadership of the new United Nations/African Union joint Chief Mediator, Mr. Djibrill Yipènè Bassole, and to cooperate fully with the deployment of UNAMID and respect its security and freedom of movement.

“The Security Council further calls on the United Nations and all parties to facilitate the rapid and complete deployment of UNAMID and on capable Member States to contribute the helicopter and transportation units necessary to ensure the successful implementation of UNAMID’s mandate.”

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2008/27.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.