

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 18 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am pleased to inform you that the People's Republic of China held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of November 2013. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision and in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

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

(Signed) **Liu Jieyi**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of  
China to the United Nations



## **Annex to the letter dated 18 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

### **Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (November 2013)**

#### **Introduction**

Under the presidency of China, the Security Council held 17 public meetings and 13 informal closed consultations to consider agenda items including Africa-related issues (Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mali, Somalia, Somalia/Eritrea, the Sudan and South Sudan); Middle East-related items (the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, Iraq, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen); and a Europe-related item (Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as the work of relevant sanctions committees. The Council adopted four resolutions and issued two presidential statements and eight statements to the press. In his capacity as President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, Ambassador Liu Jieyi, introduced the annual report of the Council to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. He also spoke in his capacity as President of the Council at the commemorative meeting held on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Moreover, Council members had their monthly luncheon with the Secretary-General, and attended the Finnish workshop on 21 and 22 November, together with newly elected members of the Council, to share experiences about serving on the Council.

#### **Africa**

##### **Central Africa**

On 20 November, the Council held a public meeting to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and on the areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The report was introduced by the Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Abou Moussa. The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counter-terrorism Cooperation, the Director of the African Union Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism and the Special Envoy for LRA issues, Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira, also participated in the meeting and introduced to the Council the work of the African Union Regional Task Force. Mr. Moussa expressed concern over the growing instability in the Central African Republic and the activities of armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Special Representative said that in the Central African Republic, the recent increase in sectarian violence was particularly alarming and that there was a pressing need to address the crisis before it spiralled out of control. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, although the defeat of the rebel group Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) was a victory, several other rebel groups continued to threaten local communities. Regarding LRA, he said that African Union military

operations had degraded LRA and limited it to pursuing survival tactics. However, the group remained a serious and unpredictable threat. He said that UNOCA would work closely with the United Nations Office for West Africa on the issue of maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea.

Mr. Madeira said that the African Union Regional Task Force had ended the first phase of operations but faced logistical challenges. Its operations against LRA in the Central African Republic were ongoing and would not ease its military pressure against LRA until Joseph Kony and his top commanders surrendered or were removed from the battlefield. He stressed that the current momentum needed to be sustained with adequate funding and logistics support to enhance the objective of eliminating LRA.

Members of the Council expressed their concern over the instability and violence in the Central African Republic, and called for unified efforts to restore peace and stability in that country. They also condemned the atrocities of LRA and called for the complete eradication of the LRA threat. They expressed their support to the African Union Regional Task Force in combating LRA and called for logistics and funding support to the African Union Regional Task Force to make it fully operational. Members also called on UNOCA to coordinate with regional countries and regional and subregional organizations to address the issues of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as other cross-border crimes.

On 25 November, the Council adopted a presidential statement ([S/PRST/2013/18](#)) on LRA. The Council reiterated its strong condemnation of the appalling attacks and war crimes and crimes against humanity carried out by LRA and its violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights. The Security Council reiterated its strong support for the African Union-led regional cooperation initiative against LRA, and commended the significant progress made by the African Union Regional Task Force. The Council noted the importance of continued international support for the operations, logistics and headquarters of the Task Force. The Council urged UNOCA, as well as the United Nations political and peacekeeping missions in the region and other relevant United Nations presences, to enhance their efforts in support of the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of LRA.

### **Central African Republic**

On 25 November, the Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the situation in the Central African Republic. The Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, introduced the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 22 of resolution [2121 \(2013\)](#) to the Council ([S/2013/677](#)). He stated that the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic continued to deteriorate significantly, amid an increase in the number and intensity of incidents of violence and grave human rights abuses committed against the civilian population by armed elements, while the capacities of the country's armed forces and other security services to confront such threats were virtually non-existent. He pointed out that the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), authorized by the African Union Peace and Security Council and to be deployed on 19 December 2013, would face a number of gaps at the strategic and operational levels. He identified five options for the provision of international support to MISCA. The chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the

Central African Republic to the United Nations, Mesmin Dembassa Worogagoi, made a statement. The Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States, Ahmad Allam-Mi, and the Ambassador and Senior Adviser of the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, Adonia Ayebare, also spoke at the open meeting.

During the closed consultations that followed that meeting, Council members expressed grave concern about the rapid deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, and stressed the need for a swift response from the Council and the international community.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

On 6 November, the Council held consultations of the whole on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Martin Kobler, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson, briefed the Council, through videoconference, on the recent developments in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly the positive developments on the ground.

The Special Representative said that military gains of the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) over the previous several days had forced M23 to formally declare the cessation of rebellion and participation in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and commitment to the political process on 5 November. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23 had already agreed on all the elements of a peace document. With the above-mentioned declaration of M23 and the declaration of acceptance of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the political process had entered into the final phase of the signature of the document. During recent fighting, MONUSCO had carried out its civilian protection mandate in reaction to the bombing by M23 in Bunagana. MONUSCO was working on the plan in support of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo against other armed groups, including Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), and would consider how to reinforce border surveillance for arms flow.

The Special Envoy undertook diplomatic efforts along with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Envoys of the African Union, the European Union and the United States of America, which led to final consensus between the Government and M23 during political dialogue. Immediately following recent fighting, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held a joint summit on 4 November in South Africa and issued a communiqué, urging the Government and M23 to honour their pledges stemming from the negotiations in Kampala and to follow the agreed steps. They urged all SADC and ICGLR member States to respect their commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, and agreed to harmonize work between both organizations in the implementation, the monitoring and the evaluation of the Framework. The Special Envoy called for support for the Government's resumption of control over its territory.

Members of the Council welcomed positive developments on the ground, which would bring hope for the peace and stability of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. They commended the diplomatic efforts made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy, as well as the work of MONUSCO. They called on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23 to complete the political process and sign a peace document as soon as possible, while expressing their support to the Government to carry out disarmament, demobilization and reintegration work for M23 ex-combatants and neutralize the threat of other armed groups, including FDLR, with the assistance of MONUSCO. They also called for the signatories of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region to continue to fully implement the Framework.

On 14 November, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/17) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council welcomed the announcement by M23 to put an end to its rebellion, the Government's acceptance of this announcement and the cessation of hostilities between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23, and called for the swift conclusion and implementation of a final, comprehensive and agreed outcome. The Council expressed deep concern regarding the sustained regional threat posed by FDLR, and stressed the importance of neutralizing FDLR and all armed groups, including the Allied Democratic Forces, LRA and various Mayi-Mayi groups, in line with resolution 2098 (2013). The Council also reiterated its support for the implementation of the commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, and called upon all signatories to fulfil promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments under the Framework.

## Libya

On 4 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole, through videoconference, by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, on the implementation of resolution 2017 (2011). He said that the security situation in Libya was still volatile, and that UNSMIL was concerned about the existence of man-portable surface-to-air missiles and control of uranium fissile material. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2017 (2011), UNSMIL would continue to support Libyan efforts to tackle the proliferation of arms and related materiel. He welcomed the commitment of the Government of Libya to work with the United Nations and the international community to address this issue.

Members of the Council expressed their concern over the flow of weapons from Libya within and beyond the Libyan territories, and called for the comprehensive implementation of Security Council sanctions imposed on Libya. They emphasized that UNSMIL should play a bigger role in tackling this issue. Some members proposed a Security Council mission to Libya next January.

On 14 November, the Council heard briefings in an open meeting by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, on the situation in Libya, who presented her sixth report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1970 (2011). While praising the engagement of the Government of Libya with ICC in the Al-Senussi case, she reiterated the obligation

of the Government to surrender Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi to the custody of ICC. She also commended the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Libya and ICC, and expressed the hope that the memorandum of understanding would pave the way for closing the impunity gap in Libya. Recalling the challenges ahead of the Government of Libya and the difficulties her office faced, she called upon all States to assist Libya in its efforts to become a fully fledged, secure and democratic society.

Members of the Council commended the endeavours of the Government of Libya to restore stability, develop the Libyan economy, seek national reconciliation and improve the judicial system. They called upon all Libyan parties to maintain unity and resolve their differences through dialogue. Some members welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding as a significant step, and emphasized the importance of further consultation between the Libyan authorities and ICC to find solutions to the outstanding issues. Some Council members called on the Government to ensure a swift transfer of all detainees to effective State control. Many Council members noted the importance of Council support for ICC. However, some Council members questioned a different stance of ICC on the cases of Al-Senussi and Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi, expressing their doubt about the capability of the Government to guarantee a fair trial in the light of the serious challenges it continued to face.

On 26 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Director of the Africa II Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on the recommendation of the Secretary-General to send a guard unit to UNSMIL. The Director emphasized that the security situation in Libya was very volatile. There was an urgent need to enhance the protection of United Nations personnel and installations. The guard unit would consist of 235 military personnel with the aim to protect the UNSMIL compound.

Members of the Council expressed their deep concern at the deterioration of the security situation in Libya, and supported the proposal to send a guard unit. Some Council members hoped that the Secretariat would provide more details on the operation and financial implication of the unit.

### **Guinea-Bissau**

On 26 November, the Council held a briefing that was followed by consultations of the whole on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), Jose Ramos-Horta, introduced the two reports of the Secretary-General on the continuing efforts to help restore constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau ([S/2013/680](#)) and on the activities of UNIOGBIS ([S/2013/681](#)). He reported that progress towards the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau continued to be slow, and highlighted that the holding of credible and peaceful presidential and legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau on 16 March 2014 should remain a key priority to ensure a rapid return to constitutional order. He urged the transitional Government to take the necessary steps towards the timely holding of the elections.

Statements were also made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, Fernando Delfim da Silva, the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, in his capacity as Chair of the Guinea-

Bissau Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations, Antonio Gumende, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries and the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations, Youssoufou Bamba, on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States.

In consultations of the whole, members of the Council welcomed the pledges of Guinea-Bissau's international partners to provide electoral assistance. Members stressed the importance of holding credible, inclusive and peaceful elections in Guinea-Bissau on 16 March 2014, and urged the Guinea-Bissau stakeholders to create conditions conducive to the elections.

## **Mali**

On 2 November, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press, condemning the kidnapping and assassination of two French journalists in Mali on that day.

## **Somalia**

On 9 November, the Council issued a statement to the press in which Council members expressed their outrage over the bomb attack in Mogadishu that caused numerous deaths and injuries, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility. They underlined their strong support for the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia and reiterated their resolve to support international and Somali efforts to remove the threat posed by Al-Shabaab to Somalia and the region.

On 12 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2124 \(2013\)](#), in which it authorized the African Union to maintain the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) until 31 October 2014, requested the African Union to increase the AMISOM force to a maximum of 22,126, and expanded the logistical support package to members of the Somali National Army undertaking joint operations with AMISOM.

On 18 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2125 \(2013\)](#), in which it extended the authorization for counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia for a further 12 months.

## **Somalia/Eritrea**

On 26 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [751 \(1992\)](#) and [1907 \(2009\)](#) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, Ambassador Oh Joon. He reported to the Council on the work of the Committee in the last 120 days, focusing on the charcoal issue, in particular on guidance for Member States on the charcoal ban. In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group had made some proposals on curbing the charcoal exports from Somalia, and it informed that it was developing a draft Implementation Assistance Notice. As for Eritrea, the Chair informed the Council that he would bring the Government of Eritrea and the Monitoring Group together to meet in Paris in December 2013 to foster constructive engagement between them.

Members of the Council welcomed the development of an Implementation Assistance Notice, and emphasized the importance of implementing all sanctions

measures imposed on Somalia in relevant resolutions. Council members also supported the efforts of the Chair to bring the Government of Eritrea and the Monitoring Group together, and expected a positive outcome from the meeting in Paris.

### **Sudan and South Sudan**

On 6 November, the Council was briefed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in consultations of the whole on the security incidents in South Sudan against the personnel of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and other United Nations agencies. Council members expressed their deep concern at increased attacks, harassment, detentions, looting and restrictions on the work of the United Nations personnel in the country carried out mainly by South Sudan security forces, and demanded that authorities take immediate measures to ensure strict adherence to the status-of-forces agreement with UNMISS and bring the perpetrators of such illegal acts to justice.

On 11 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, and the Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, John Ging, on recent developments in Sudan-South Sudan relations, notably the unilateral referendum organized by the Ngok Dinka community, the visit to Abyei by the African Union Peace and Security Council, and the status of the proposed polio vaccination campaign in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. Council members called on the Sudan and South Sudan to actively implement the consensus agreed upon by the two Heads of State, and to expedite the creation of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the establishment of Abyei Administration, Council and Police organs.

Members of the Council reiterated their objection to any unilateral action regarding the final status of Abyei, expressed concerns about the possible aggravation of tension during the dry season migration and called on all stakeholders to exercise restraint and refrain from actions that might exacerbate the situation. Council members expressed regret that the polio vaccination campaign had failed to commence as planned, and urged the Government of the Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to fully cooperate with United Nations humanitarian agencies to ensure a smooth and secure vaccination campaign as soon as possible.

On 18 November, the Council was briefed during an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS, Hilde Johnson, on recent developments in South Sudan and the work of UNMISS. The Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations, Francis Deng, also made a statement. After the open meeting, the Council was further briefed in closed consultations by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South Sudan. Council members commended the work of UNMISS and expressed grave concerns over the security incidents against United Nations personnel on the ground.

On 20 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan, Ambassador María Cristina Perceval, on the latest work of the Committee. Council members expressed their continued concerns about



the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur and the violations of the sanctions regime by the Government of the Sudan. Council members commended the work of the Committee, and welcomed the approval of the Government of the Sudan regarding the proposed visit to the Sudan by the Chair of the Committee.

On 25 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2126 \(2013\)](#), renewing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei for a period of six months.

On 25 November, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press, condemning in the strongest terms the attack by unidentified armed assailants on an African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) patrol near Kabkabiya, Northern Darfur, on 24 November, which resulted in the death of one Rwandan peacekeeper. Members of the Council expressed their condolences to the family of the peacekeeper killed in the attack, as well as to the Government of Rwanda and UNAMID. They called on the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice. Members of the Council reiterated their full support for UNAMID and called on all parties in Darfur to cooperate fully with the mission.

## **Middle East**

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

On 19 November, the Council held the monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffery Feltman, noted that four months since the resumption of direct negotiations, the process had suffered a significant setback with a series of announcements of settlement plans in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which also led to the resignation of Palestinian negotiators. The announcement on 13 November of plans for advancement of some 24,000 units, including in E-1, were of particular concern, as these could not be reconciled with the goal of a negotiated two-State solution, he said. He reiterated the United Nations position that settlements are contrary to international law and an obstacle to peace, and that the Secretary-General expected the Government of Israel to put a full stop to those plans. Parties should intensify efforts and refrain from actions that undermined trust and the spirit of talks. He noted that the situation on the ground remained tense, and the Israeli security forces continued to carry out search and arrest operations. Violence between settlers and Palestinians continued on a daily basis throughout the West Bank, and the continued demolitions of unlicensed Palestinian structures was worrying. The situation in Gaza was once again deteriorating, including the socioeconomic situation combined with energy and construction crises. Israel had been called upon to urgently reconsider its decision to temporarily halt the import of construction material into Gaza. The Under-Secretary-General emphasized that the financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East had become more serious and encouraged all donors to step up their contribution. On Lebanon, he highlighted the condemnation of the Secretary-General of the terrorist attack that had apparently targeted the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 19 November.

During the following closed consultations, members of the Council expressed support for the negotiations and the leadership shown by President Abbas and Prime

Minister Netanyahu. Many Council members expressed serious concern and condemned the recent large-scale settlement plan announced by Israel. Many members also stressed the need to improve the living conditions of the people in the Gaza Strip and to respect the legitimate security interests of the parties.

## **Iraq**

On 25 November, the Council held a briefing followed by consultations of the whole on the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, Nickolay Mladenov, made a statement on the situation in Iraq and the work of UNAMI during the past four months. He noted that many Iraqi political, religious, tribal and civil leaders took part in the Conference for Social Peace, signed a national Code of Honour and committed to uphold the unity of Iraq and its people. He welcomed the enactment of the new general election law and hoped that all Iraqi political leaders would build on the current momentum and move forward to a comprehensive dialogue and reform process and hold parliamentary elections by 30 April 2014. He also commended improved Iraq-Kuwait relations. However, he voiced his concern regarding continued challenges to the political and security situation in Iraq, including increasing sectarian violence and terrorist attacks.

In closed consultations, members of the Council expressed full support for UNAMI activities and the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI. Council members welcomed recent political dialogue and the continued improvement in Iraq-Kuwait relations, and emphasized the importance of implementing resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#). They called upon all Iraqi political and religious parties to advance political dialogue and national reconciliation and promote peace and development in Iraq. They expressed their concern over the deteriorating security situation in Iraq and the impact of the Syrian crisis on Iraq.

Following the consultations, the Council issued a statement to the press, condemning the recent violence in Iraq and reaffirming Council support for peace and stability in Iraq.

## **Lebanon**

On 19 November, the Council issued a statement to the press, condemning the terrorist attacks against the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut and appealing to all Lebanese people to preserve national unity in the face of attempts to undermine the country's stability. Members of the Council also stressed the importance of all Lebanese parties respecting Lebanon's policy of disassociation, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda Declaration.

On 26 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Derek Plumbly, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and the activities of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) over the past four months. The Special Coordinator noted that the situation along the Blue Line and in the UNIFIL area of operations remained calm, while terrorist attacks in Beirut and Tripoli in the past few months, especially the terrorist attack outside the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, were dangerous new developments. He also mentioned that there had been no substantive

progress on the goal of a permanent ceasefire. He called on all Lebanese parties to recommit to the Baabda Declaration and the policy of disassociation and to establish a new government as soon as possible. He expressed his concern about the negative effect of the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic on Lebanon, in particular the influx of nearly 1 million Syrian refugees and rising sectarian tensions. He also noted the important role President Michel Sleiman and the Lebanese Armed Forces played in preserving stability in Lebanon. He advised the Council on the establishment of the International Support Group for Lebanon and its efforts. He expressed his frustration that no progress had been made with regard to Israel ceasing its violations of Lebanese airspace and its occupation of the northern part of the village of Ghajar, as well as the continued possession of arms by Hizbullah and other armed groups outside the control of the Lebanese State.

A majority of the Council members expressed their concern at Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and supported Lebanon's policy of disassociation from the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Some members emphasized the need to combat arms trafficking across the Syria-Lebanon border and underscored the need to disarm Lebanese non-State actors, including Hizbullah. Council members also expressed concern at the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon.

Following consultations, the Council issued a statement to the press, welcoming the establishment of the International Support Group for Lebanon, calling on all Lebanese parties to respect the policy of disassociation, and expressing support for the peace and stability of Lebanon.

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

On 4 November, the Council was updated in consultations of the whole on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos. She said that the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to deteriorate rapidly, with the number of people in need reaching 9.3 million, including 6.5 million internally displaced. She introduced target areas that could be used to measure progress in the implementation of the Council's presidential statement of 2 October ([S/PRST/2013/15](#)). She also recalled her previous call to Member States to exert pressure on all parties to the conflict to take specific measures to enhance humanitarian access and to alleviate the humanitarian situation.

Some members of the Council made statements and expressed their concern over the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and their support to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to play a leading role in the humanitarian operations in Syria, and emphasized the need for intensified efforts to implement the Council's presidential statement of 2 October.

On 5 November, the Council was briefed in informal consultations by the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations in the Syrian Arab Republic, Sigrid Kaag, on the implementation of the decision of the Executive Council of OPCW on the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#). She confirmed that since the adoption of resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#), important steps had been completed and milestones had been met, which included the inspection of 21 out of the 23 sites declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, the

functional destruction of its critical chemical weapon equipment by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in the presence of OPCW verification teams, and the submission by the Government of a formal initial declaration to OPCW, pursuant to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Joint Mission would continue to review the security condition of the two unvisited sites and conduct a visit as soon as conditions permitted. The Joint Mission was satisfied with the timely manner in which these activities had been conducted. The Special Coordinator also mentioned €7.7 million received by OPCW and the United Nations trust fund to date and expressed appreciation to Member States that had provided contributions. She suggested that, by 15 November, the Executive Council of OPCW should have decided on the general plan of destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, as well as areas where additional support may be required from Member States. She reiterated that the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment was the responsibility of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which also bore the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of the Joint Mission personnel. She expressed the hope that the Security Council would continue its strong backing and active guidance in the months to come.

Members of the Council unanimously welcomed the progress achieved so far in the verification and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. They praised the valour and dedication shown by the Joint Mission personnel in performing their duties in a difficult and volatile situation, and the tireless efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Director-General of OPCW to push forward relevant work. Some members commended the active stance of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in implementing its obligations under resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#), and reiterated that continued active cooperation from the Government, including in ensuring the necessary security and safety for the Joint Mission to conduct its work in Syria, was essential for the success of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. Some members pointed out that the international community should remain vigilant and ensure that the Syrian initial declaration was exhaustive. Some members attached importance to the political process, as the only feasible solution to the Syrian conflict, and called for the early convening of the Geneva II Conference. Some members called for equal cooperation from the Syrian authorities on humanitarian access.

On 28 November, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press, strongly condemning the mortar shelling on 28 November of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Damascus, which killed one person and wounded nine others. Members of the Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and reiterated their determination to combat terrorism by all means.

## **Yemen**

On 27 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, on the situation in Yemen. He said the National Dialogue Conference was entering the final stage, and Yemen had made remarkable progress despite evident challenges. He mentioned that the security situation continued to present challenges, and some people were obstructing the National Dialogue Conference process. He expressed his expectation that the Council should continue to follow this issue and take appropriate action.

Members of the Council expressed appreciation for the work of the Special Adviser, and expressed their hope for an early conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference. Members emphasized that the Council should firmly support the political transition process and send a clear message to spoilers.

Following closed consultations, the Council issued a statement to the press, expressing Council support to the ongoing political transition process in Yemen and the efforts of the Government of Yemen to safeguard security, promote social and economic development and push forward political, economic and security reforms. The Council expressed its expectation for an early conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference, based on the completion of the steps contained in the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its implementation mechanism. The Council also expressed its concern at attempts to undermine the political process and the Government of Yemen.

## Europe

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 12 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2123 \(2013\)](#) to extend the mandate of the multinational stabilization force (EUFOR ALTHEA) for another 12 months.

Following the adoption of resolution [2123 \(2013\)](#), the Council held a debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina, during which the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, briefed the Council on the current situation in the country. The High Representative said the political situation was still the same compared with six months ago. He remained concerned about some challenges to the full implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He believed that the continued presence of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization military missions were necessary, and he welcomed the adoption of resolution [2123 \(2013\)](#) to extend the mandate of EUFOR. The High Representative stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina had the benefit of the best regional situation in the last 20 years and the international community needed to stand together to support the country's progress and help the leaders to reach their common goals.

Members of the Council expressed their respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and raised their concerns about the current political situation in the country. Council members reiterated their support for the full implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and called upon all political parties and leaders to genuinely engage in dialogue and trust-building measures for finding generally acceptable options for socioeconomic and structural reforms that strictly comply with the Agreement.

### Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

On 19 November, the Council held a debate and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Farid Zarif. The Special Representative said the successful conduct of Kosovo-wide municipal elections on

3 November constituted an important milestone in the implementation of the 19 April First Agreement on Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations between Pristina and Belgrade. He reported that although problems had occurred in northern Mitrovica on election day, a repeat vote at the three affected polling stations proceeded peacefully on 17 November. He stressed that UNMIK continued to focus its efforts and resources in support of the European Union-led political process and towards the fulfilment of its mandate. He concluded that the members of the Security Council continued to play a key role in supporting the process under way in Kosovo. The Prime Minister of Serbia, Ivica Dacic, said that Serbia was committed to continuing active and constructive negotiations with Pristina, as well as to implementing the agreements reached so far. He reiterated that the dialogue in Brussels had a status-neutral character and that the desire to normalize relations between Belgrade and Pristina did not mean a change of Serbia's position regarding the non-acceptance of the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo. The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaci, briefed the Council on the recent developments in Kosovo and confirmed the commitment to continue the dialogue with Serbia.

Members of the Council expressed their support for the European Union-facilitated dialogue and called for the implementation of the agreements reached by the two sides. Some members expressed concerns regarding the return of Serbian refugees and internally displaced persons. Some members commended the achievements of Kosovo as an independent country, while others reiterated their support for the unity and territorial integrity of Serbia, stressed that resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#) remained fully in effect and constituted an international legal basis for the settlement of the Kosovo issue, and opined in this regard that UNMIK should retain its presence in Kosovo, as it played a critical role there.

## **Thematic issues**

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

On 11 November, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#), Sylvie Lucas (Luxembourg), on the ongoing activities of the Committee, including exchanging views on reports of its Panel of Experts. The Chair presented the 90-day report of the Committee to the Council. Members of the Council called for the full and effective implementation of the relevant resolutions and encouraged the Committee to continue to play an important role. Members also emphasized the importance of achieving the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and to maintain peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in North-East Asia; reaffirmed their support for a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution; and welcomed the recent efforts by parties concerned in this regard. Some members called for the early resumption of the six-party talks and the full and expeditious implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement. Some members urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its obligation under relevant Security Council resolutions, to demonstrate its seriousness towards denuclearization talks and to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

### **Peace and security in Africa**

On 12 November, the Council held closed consultations of the whole on a draft resolution on the requested deferral of ICC proceedings in connection with the President and the Deputy President of Kenya. Members of the Council recognized concerns of African countries and the important role Kenya played in maintaining regional peace and security, as well as fighting terrorism. They acknowledged that Kenya and other African countries were facing challenges on peace and security. However, no agreement was reached on the draft resolution, since members of the Council failed to reach agreement on the applicability of article 16 of the Rome Statute.

On 15 November, the Council voted on the draft resolution on the requested ICC deferral of ICC proceedings in connection with the President and the Deputy President of Kenya. The draft, which received seven votes in favour and eight abstentions, was not adopted. Members of the Council made remarks in explanation of their votes. Some members supported the Council to take action to meet the requirement of African States. Some members emphasized that the concerns raised would be more appropriately addressed by ICC itself and the ICC Assembly States Parties.

### **Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council**

On 27 November, the Council held an open meeting and heard briefings by the Chairs of the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#) and [1989 \(2011\)](#) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism and [1540 \(2004\)](#). On behalf of the three Committees, the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#) and [1989 \(2011\)](#), Ambassador Quinlan, introduced the work of the three Committees since the last briefing in May 2013, as well as directions for future endeavours. In their capacity as the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#) and [1540 \(2004\)](#), Ambassador Loulichki and Ambassador Oh Joon, respectively, also introduced the key activities of their respective Committees. They declared their preparedness to hold regular meetings in order to improve the coordination of their work, not only in terms of assistance, information-sharing and outreach, but also in the planning and conduct of field visits and staff training.

Members of the Council expressed their appreciation for the work of the relevant Committees and their support to these Committees. They also emphasized the importance for these Committees to further carry out their mandates and enhance their coordination and cooperation with Member States, with support from relevant expert groups.