

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 19 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Australia for the month of November 2014 (see annex). The assessment has been prepared under my supervision, and in consultation with other members of the Council.

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

(Signed) Gary Quinlan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

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

Under the presidency of Australia, the Security Council held a total of 31 meetings, of which 30 were public and 1 was private. There were also 12 sessions of consultations. The Council also adopted five resolutions, three presidential statements and 15 press statements during November.

Africa

Burkina Faso

On 4 November, the Security Council was briefed, under “Any other business”, by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, on developments in Burkina Faso surrounding the resignation of Blaise Compaoré as President and subsequent mediation efforts towards the swift establishment of a civilian-led transition process. The Under-Secretary-General advised that, at the Secretary-General’s request, the Special Representative for West Africa, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, had participated in a joint mission to Burkina Faso, together with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The participants in the joint mission consulted with all stakeholders in Burkina Faso to put in place arrangements for the handover of power from the military to a consensual, civilian-led transition leading to elections and the swift return of constitutional order. The Under-Secretary-General stressed the importance of the international community’s speaking with one voice on the situation in Burkina Faso. Council members expressed support for the efforts of the Special Representative, together with the African Union and ECOWAS, and emphasized the need for the swift establishment of a civilian-led transition.

On 5 November, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11632) in which the members of the Council expressed deep concern over the political and security crisis in Burkina Faso, urged all parties to refrain from violence, and called on all stakeholders to collaborate on the launch of a peaceful, civilian-led and democratic transition process leading to the holding of free, fair, inclusive and credible elections as soon as possible, consistent with the Constitution of Burkina Faso.

On 17 November, the Council issued another statement to the press (SC/11651) in which the members of the Council welcomed the signing, on 16 November, of a Charter for the Transition in Burundi, which provides the legal framework for a civilian-led transition leading to elections in November 2015. In that statement, the members of the Council welcomed the appointment of Michel Kafando as the civilian President of the Transition, and called on all stakeholders to facilitate the commencement of the work of the organs of transition without delay. Council members commended the joint efforts of the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS in Burkina Faso, and expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Special Representative for West Africa.

Burundi

On 5 November, the Council held an open briefing and closed consultations on the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB). The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi and Head of the United Nations Office in Burundi, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga; and heard a statement by the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Paul Seger (Switzerland). The Director General for International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burundi, Ambassador Zaharie Gahutu, also spoke in the open session.

The Special Representative described the upcoming elections as by far the most pressing and multifaceted practical challenge facing the country, emphasizing the importance of open political dialogue. He noted the allegations of partiality on the part of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the efforts of the President of the Commission to address this issue. The Special Representative said that the tensions in the political sphere were also apparent in the various trials involving major opposition figures. He noted that the discussion on the electoral road map on 23 October had helped facilitate an exchange of views by the members of Burundi's political class on the political situation in the country.

Council members emphasized their intention to continue to be vigilant and to monitor developments in Burundi, particularly in the important drawdown phase of BNUB, as well as through the electoral observer mission before, during and after the elections scheduled for 2015. Council members took note of the progressive transfer of responsibility from BNUB to the United Nations country team, and requested BNUB to continue its work through the final day of its mandate, 31 December 2014.

Council members expressed strong support for the continuing efforts of the Special Representative and BNUB, and looked forward to the effective establishment of the electoral observer mission on 1 January 2015, and to early reporting by that mission on the situation on the ground. Council members encouraged further efforts by the Burundian authorities to create the necessary conditions for inclusive elections through constructive dialogue, open political space, the end of politically motivated violence, and the fight against impunity, in accordance with resolution 2137 (2014). Council members emphasized the importance of the road map and the code of conduct for the elections, which they said must be implemented by all sides in a manner consistent with the political dialogue, and the importance of the independence and impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

Council members also welcomed the progress made towards the establishment of a stand-alone presence in Burundi of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and echoed the calls from the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović, for support for that Office. Council members emphasized that it was essential for the Office to be able to do its job unobstructed.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Following the 27 October briefing and consultations on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Council, on 5 November, adopted a presidential

statement (S/PRST/2014/22), which expressed its concern over the lack of progress on the voluntary disarmament process of the Forces démocratiques de la libération du Rwanda (FDLR), strongly condemned recent attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces, recalled the importance of completing the permanent demobilization of the former M23 combatants, and called for the implementation of the reforms committed to under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The presidential statement also recalled the importance of promoting and protecting human rights and fighting impunity, and expressed the Council's grave concern at the decision of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to expel the head of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office from the country.

On 25 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, briefed the Council, under "Any other business", on the massacres committed against civilians near Beni on 20 November. He stated that a joint mission had been dispatched to the site of the attacks to establish the facts and the number of casualties, which could be as high as 100. Over 200 civilians have been killed since mid-October in the Beni region.

The Under-Secretary-General advised that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) was increasing its support to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and conducting joint patrols, and had moved the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade and other mission assets into the region. While it was preferable to conduct joint military operations led by the armed forces with the support of MONUSCO to neutralize armed groups in the region, including the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Under-Secretary-General advised that he had authorized MONUSCO to undertake unilateral military action, if necessary.

Council members strongly condemned the violence against civilians around Beni and called for the perpetrators to be held accountable. There was widespread support for efforts to neutralize the threat posed by ADF and other armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including FDLR, as mandated in resolution 2147 (2014).

Following the briefing, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11675) condemning in the strongest terms the massacres perpetrated against civilians and also condemning attacks targeted against MONUSCO peacekeepers. The Council called for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO to redouble their efforts to provide proactive protection of civilians and neutralize the armed groups that were still operating in the eastern part of the country.

Guinea-Bissau

On 18 November, the Council held a briefing and consultations on Guinea-Bissau. Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), Miguel Trovoada, and the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Brazil, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, provided briefings. Statements were made by the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, Domingos Simões Pereira, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, Hanna Serwaah Tetteh (in her capacity as Chair of ECOWAS), and the

Minister for State and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, José Luís Guterres (in his capacity as Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries).

Speakers noted the progress made in restoring constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau and the steps taken to reform the defence and security sectors. Further efforts were needed to ensure that stability was irreversible and to prevent an outbreak of Ebola (no cases had been reported to date). All speakers called for coordinated international assistance for Guinea-Bissau.

During closed consultations, Council members welcomed progress in Guinea-Bissau and efforts to begin the process of reform, particularly in the defence and security sectors. However, many Council members also stressed that further efforts were necessary in order to address organized crime and drug trafficking. Concerns over the risk of the spread of Ebola to Guinea-Bissau were also raised.

On 25 November, pursuant to the recommendations of the Secretary-General, the Council adopted resolution 2186 (2014), submitted by Chad, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Rwanda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, with 15 votes in favour. In that resolution, the Council extended the mandate of UNIOGBIS until 28 February 2015, inter alia, to provide technical advice and support, pending the findings and recommendations of the strategic assessment mission.

Kenya

On 24 November, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11668) in which it condemned the 22 November attack in Mandera, Kenya, which had caused the deaths of many people, and for which Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility. Council members reiterated their solidarity with the people and Government of Kenya in their fight against terrorism and paid tribute, in particular, to the role of Kenya in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as part of the fight against Al-Shabaab.

Liberia

On 12 November, the Council held a briefing and consultations on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and heard a statement by the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Márten Grunditz, which was read out by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Per Thöresson. A statement was also made by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations, Marjon V. Kamara.

While recognizing the impact of Ebola, the Under-Secretary-General focused his briefing to the open session on the long-term issues facing the country. He noted the resignation of the Minister of Justice, Christiana Tah, citing the difficulties faced in fulfilling her responsibilities with respect to steering the national security institutions that were under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. He also mentioned the investigations of a board of inquiry under the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, which found that five soldiers were guilty of offences in relation to the enforcement of the quarantine of an Ebola-affected

community in Monrovia. He noted the directive from the President of Liberia with respect to proceeding with senatorial elections on 16 December. Finally, the Under-Secretary-General commented on the ongoing role of UNMIL in Liberia, indicating support for the extension of the Mission's mandate into 2015.

In closed consultations, the Under-Secretary-General emphasized that it was essential for the Council to express solidarity with Liberia, while at the same time reinforcing the signal that UNMIL would not remain in Liberia indefinitely. He suggested that the new mandate for UNMIL should be extended, that language specifying humanitarian assistance be explicitly included in the mandate, and that a further drawdown of police and military numbers be suspended until a competent health authority indicated that the epidemic was over.

Council members discussed recent efforts in Liberia to address Ebola, including the implementation of a more robust command and control structure for the armed forces, social mobilization and a communication strategy. Council members supported the recent signals from Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire reflecting a willingness to reopen borders. There was broad recognition of the need to reduce the stigma attached to Ebola so that Liberia could continue to attract health workers and, in the future, encourage investors to return to the country. Council members expressed broad support for the extension of the mandate of UNMIL into 2015, citing the need not only to address Ebola but also to reinvigorate efforts to support the Government of Liberia in implementing security and human rights reform.

Libya (United Nations Support Mission in Libya)

On 4 November, the Council held closed consultations on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), at which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL, Bernardino León, provided a briefing. Stressing that time was running out for Libya, the Special Representative focused on developments with regard to the political dialogue. He requested the Council's support, specifically in calling for a resumed political process; provision of incentives and disincentives (for example, in the form of sanctions) to ensure progress and, if a political agreement was reached, support for its implementation.

Council members expressed concern at the situation in Libya and the continued instability throughout the country. They offered their full support to the Special Representative and his efforts to bring the parties together so as to enable them to reach a political solution. Council members urged all parties in Libya to respect calls for a ceasefire and emphasized that there could be no military solution to the crisis. They also urged all parties in Libya to engage in a Libyan-led political dialogue, facilitated by the United Nations, and to take genuine and immediate steps towards a political settlement of the crisis. Council members underscored the importance of access by humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the situation in Libya, in particular those displaced by the fighting and also raised concerns about terrorism in Libya. With regard to sanctions, some Council members noted the need to strike an appropriate balance between encouraging political progress and stability, and ensuring consequences for those engaged in destabilizing Libya. Press elements were agreed by Council members, and the President of the Council addressed the media in those agreed terms at the conclusion of the meeting.

On 13 November, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11646) condemning the terrorist bomb attacks against the embassies of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates in Tripoli.

On 26 November, the Council issued another statement to the press (SC/11677) expressing profound concern about the deteriorating situation in Libya and its impact on regional peace and stability. The statement urged all parties to engage constructively with the Special Representative in the efforts to ensure the resumption of an inclusive political process. It also condemned ongoing human rights violations and abuses in Libya, use of violence against civilians and civilian institutions, and public intimidation, including of United Nations personnel.

Libya (International Criminal Court)

On 11 November, the Council was briefed by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, on actions taken pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) by which the Council referred the situation in Libya to the Court. The Prosecutor expressed regret that the security situation in Libya had worsened, that political instability had grown and that, as a result, the existing environment was not conducive to closing the impunity gap in Libya. The Prosecutor expressed concern about the spate of ongoing assassinations in Benghazi, and the threats to media workers, human rights defenders and women in particular, as well as prosecutors, judges and lawyers. In this light, the Prosecutor stated that she might consider applying for a review of the judges' decision upholding the request of Libya that the case against Abdullah Al-Senussi be tried in that country. The Prosecutor suggested that the international community could be more proactive in exploring solutions capable of helping to restore stability and strengthen accountability, and suggested the formation of an international contact group on justice issues, a suggestion which some Council members supported.

The Prosecutor stressed that the security situation had had a negative impact on the investigations of her Office in Libya. This notwithstanding, the Prosecutor reported that representatives of her Office had recently held a meeting with a team of Libyan national investigators, which had been constructive and helpful. The Prosecutor advised that a lack of resources had also negatively impacted on the International Criminal Court's investigations in Libya, and pointed to the continued disparity between resources and expectations. The Prosecutor expressed concern about the unresolved issues pertaining to individuals in detention in Libya and the mass displacement of Tawerghans.

Council members echoed the Prosecutor's strong concerns about the political and security situation in Libya, with most recognizing its impact on the investigations of the International Criminal Court and on accountability efforts more generally. Council members expressed strong concern about ongoing crimes being committed in Libya. Many Council members supported the Prosecutor's call for Libya to immediately surrender Saif al-Islam Qadhafi to the custody of the Court. A number of Council members expressed concern in response to the Prosecutor's advice that a lack of resources had hampered her Office's efforts in Libya. Some Council members suggested that there needed to be greater follow-up by the Council with respect to the referrals of the International Criminal Court on justice and accountability matters. Some Council members expressed concern at the fact

that it had not yet been possible for the investigations of crimes committed by the rebels to progress.

The Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations, Ibrahim O. A. Dabbashi, reaffirmed Libya's commitment to achieving justice and accountability. He emphasized that Libya was the victim of armed terrorist groups and militia were seeking to undermine the State in order to pillage its resources.

Mali

On 10 November, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue on the situation in Mali, in which the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ameerah Haq, and the Deputy Military Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, Major General Adrian Foster, participated.

Council members broadly agreed that the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was sufficiently robust, and emphasized the importance of its full implementation. They acknowledged the importance of cooperation between MINUSMA and Operation Barkhane, launched by France, noting their respective mandates, functions and areas of operation. They also reiterated their strong and unified belief that the crisis in Mali could be resolved only through a comprehensive, inclusive and transparent peace process, welcoming the efforts of the international mediation team, led by Algeria, to support the inter-Malian dialogue. The Council members, noting the regional dimensions of insecurity in Mali, including the movement across borders by terrorist groups and the threat of cross-border illicit trafficking, agreed that those issues needed to be addressed through enhanced regional security cooperation.

Council members expressed their deep concern at the rise in insecurity in northern Mali and, in particular, the increase in asymmetric attacks against MINUSMA. They welcomed the courage and commitment to MINUSMA of the troop- and police-contributing countries and called for continued bilateral support for the training and equipping of MINUSMA troops and police. Council members expressed appreciation for the actions suggested by the Secretariat in its 5 November discussion note for Council consideration. They expressed support for the annex, which listed efforts by the Secretariat and MINUSMA to enhance the capabilities of the Mission. Council members encouraged the Secretariat and MINUSMA to take all steps needed to proactively implement the Mission's existing robust mandate, including efforts to enhance its capabilities. They agreed that it would be useful for the next quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali to provide an update on the implementation of the efforts to enhance the capabilities of MINUSMA.

Nigeria

On 10 November, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11639) in which its members condemned in the strongest terms the suicide bomb attack committed on that day against the Government Science Technical School in Potiskum in Yobe State, Nigeria, in which several dozen people, mostly students, were killed, and many more were injured. Council members welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Government of Nigeria to protect schools and schoolchildren, as well as international efforts to provide assistance to the Nigerian authorities in this

regard and bring the perpetrators to justice. They called on the international community, in particular States in the region, to work closely with the Nigerian authorities in support of the intensification of such efforts.

Peace and security in Africa (Ebola)

On 21 November, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Julie Bishop, chaired an open debate on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease, Dr. David Nabarro, the Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Emergency Crisis Manager and Head of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), Anthony Banbury, and the head of the French Red Cross in Guinea, Thomas Mauget, briefed the Council. In addition to statements by Council members, statements were also made by the representatives of the countries most affected by Ebola: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as Mali.

The United Nations System Senior Coordinator and the Deputy Ebola Coordinator noted that since the scale-up of the international response, there had been signs that the rates of increase in infections were slowing, particularly in Liberia. Much of the credit was due to local communities who were changing traditional high-risk behaviours. The crisis remained very serious, however, and results were uneven between and within countries. Much more needed to be done in order to deal with outbreaks in remote areas, particularly in Sierra Leone and Guinea. Concerns were raised about the preparedness of other countries in the region to respond to an Ebola outbreak, with the Secretary-General instructing UNMEER to establish a presence in Mali. There was a \$600 million shortfall in respect of the \$1.5 billion required until March 2015.

The United Nations System Senior Coordinator noted that the longer the outbreak continued, the deeper and broader its impact would be. Growth in Liberia in 2014 had been revised down from 5.9 per cent before the crisis to -0.4 per cent. In Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, some 10,000 schools had closed, leaving 2 million children out of school. The growing gap between needs and revenue was affecting the delivery of services. The Senior Coordinator urged the international community to support early recovery efforts to generate jobs and restore essential services which he saw as underpinning peace and security.

Council members expressed support for UNMEER as well as the affected Governments, and reaffirmed their ongoing resolve to fight the outbreak. They agreed that the international response had to be nimble and responsive to changing needs and circumstances. Many underlined the need for more health workers to fight the outbreak and noted the medical evacuation procedures put in place by the European Union as well as the considerable financial input and contributions in medical personnel, materiel and means of transportation from other Member States. They also agreed that further efforts should be made to help neighbouring countries strengthen their preparedness.

Representatives of Ebola-affected countries said that they remained resolute in their fight against the outbreak. While acknowledging the support of donors and UNMEER, all stressed that more resources were needed across the board to end the outbreak, restore services, rebuild health systems and address the socioeconomic impacts of the crisis.

At the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/24), in which it welcomed the mobilization of a coordinated international response and important progress achieved as a result; emphasized that the dynamic situation on the ground required the international response to be flexible; stressed the importance of a scaling up by UNMEER of its presence and activities, particularly outside the capitals of the affected countries; and called for further efforts to respond to the outstanding need for medical personnel.

Somalia

On 12 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2184 (2014), in which the Council renewed for a further 12 months the authorization for States and regional organizations to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. The resolution stressed the need for a comprehensive response to piracy, including tackling its underlying causes; called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Somali pirates; and urged States to ensure that counter-piracy activities took into consideration the need to protect women and girls, in particular, from exploitation. The renewal of the authorization followed the introduction of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia (S/2014/740) by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 22 October. After the vote, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations welcomed the adoption of the resolution and reaffirmed to the Council the commitment of Somalia to cooperation.

Sudan (Darfur)

On 10 November, under “Any other business”, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, raised the issue of media allegations of mass rape on 30 and 31 October by Sudanese armed forces in the village of Thabit in North Darfur, and reports that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) had been denied the access required to investigate. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Council. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, also briefed the Council, by video teleconferencing.

The Assistant-Secretary-General informed the Council of the several attempts made by UNAMID to access the village and noted that Sudanese authorities had denied access to the investigation team. Access was ultimately granted on 9 November. The Special Representative advised the Council that UNAMID had spent several hours in the village and interviewed 70 villagers. While no villagers reported any rape cases to the UNAMID investigation team, Sudanese armed forces and military intelligence personnel were in fact present in the village during the investigation by UNAMID. The Special Representative stated that, in this climate of intimidation, it was not possible to conclude that no violations took place.

Of the Council members who spoke, most raised serious concerns over the allegations and the denial of access to UNAMID, and called for the conduct of further investigations. One Council member stated that UNAMID should not investigate allegations on the basis merely of media reports, which may be spreading biased information.

On 19 November, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11658), expressing concern at allegations reported in the media of mass rape in Thabit, North Darfur, on 30 and 31 October, and calling on the Government of the Sudan to conduct a thorough investigation into these allegations. Council members also called on the Government of the Sudan to allow, without delay, full and unrestricted freedom of movement to UNAMID throughout Darfur, so as to enable the Operation to conduct a full and transparent investigation, without interference, and to verify whether these incidents occurred.

Sudan/South Sudan

The Council was briefed in closed consultations on 4 November by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Ellen Margrethe Løj, and UNMISS Force Commander, Lieutenant General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam, on the renewed fighting in late October 2014 between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and SPLA-in-Opposition (SPLA-i-O) forces in Bentiu and Rubkhona, Unity State. The Special Representative and the UNMISS Force Commander participated through video teleconferencing from Juba.

The Special Representative presented an outline of the fighting that had broken out in Bentiu, Unity State, on 26 October. Noting that it was unclear how many lives had been lost in the several days of the fighting, she stated that the ceasefire monitors of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) had blamed the opposition for initiating the conflict. Though the fighting had stopped, tensions remained high and the occurrence of further clashes could not be ruled out. The Special Representative stated that the fighting did not bode well for the reaching of an agreement by the warring parties during the peace talks led by IGAD, scheduled for 6 November.

Council members expressed deep concern at the reports of renewed fighting and the humanitarian consequences thereof. Council members also affirmed the importance of a meaningful engagement of the parties with IGAD in its mediation efforts and respect for the cessation of hostilities agreement in the interest of an early return of peace and stability to South Sudan. Many members spoke in favour of applying targeted sanctions on individuals as a means of strengthening the mediation role of IGAD and guarding against spoilers of the peace process, while several members advocated for an arms embargo to curb the proliferation of weapons and ammunition which would prolong the conflict. One delegation expressed strong doubts about the effectiveness of possible United Nations sanctions in terms of promoting the peace process in South Sudan and insisted that due consideration be given to the position of IGAD and the African Union on United Nations sanctions measures.

On 5 November, a statement to the press (SC/11631) was issued in which Council members, inter alia, expressed their alarm and outrage at the resumption of hostilities between SPLA and SPLA-i-O in Unity State and Upper Nile State. They demanded an immediate end to all violence and confirmed their intention to commence negotiations, in consultation with relevant partners, including IGAD and the African Union, on all appropriate measures, including targeted sanctions, against those impeding the peace process.

Council members also confirmed their strong support for the IGAD mediation effort and welcomed the next IGAD summit, scheduled for 6 November, as a further opportunity to press the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, and Riek Machar to urgently reach agreement on inclusive and comprehensive arrangements for a transitional government of national unity. They reiterated their steadfast support for UNMISS and condemned violations of the Status of Forces Agreement. They also expressed concern regarding the increased harassment and targeting of non-governmental organizations and humanitarian workers, as well as journalists, in South Sudan.

On 25 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2187 (2014) on South Sudan, by which the Council extended the UNMISS mandate for a further six months and retained its focus on four key tasks: the protection of civilians; facilitating humanitarian access; investigating and reporting on human rights violations; and supporting the peace process. In remarks following adoption of the resolution, the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations, Francis Mading Deng, noted, among other things, the frustration of the international community with respect to the pace of talks. While this frustration was understandable, he stressed his opinion that a sustainable solution to the current crisis in his country could not be achieved by the imposition of sanctions, which tended only to harden positions towards confrontation rather than cooperation.

Also on 25 November, the Council received, under “Any other business”, and at the request of the Secretariat, a briefing on South Sudan by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. He advised the Council that the approaching dry season in South Sudan would likely see an increase in the intensity and scope of the conflict, as both parties regrouped and rearmed in the absence of decisive progress in the peace process. He warned that a resumption of fighting would have dire humanitarian consequences and increase the number of civilians seeking protection in United Nations protection sites, whose capacities had already reached their limit. This would hinder UNMISS capacity to conduct proactive patrolling, as peacekeepers would be occupied in securing protection sites.

The Under-Secretary-General further noted that the United Nations had detected an increase in accusatory rhetoric directed by the Government of South Sudan towards UNMISS and violations of the UNMISS Status of Forces Agreement by the Government of South Sudan. Pursuant to the request of Council members, the presidency of Australia engaged with the Permanent Mission of South Sudan to the United Nations on 26 November, to highlight its concern about violations of the Agreement.

Council members expressed deep concern about the security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan. Most delegations spoke in favour of imposing Council sanctions and an arms embargo on South Sudan. Several other delegations urged the Council to engage in the near future in an informal interactive dialogue with the African Union and IGAD with a view to finalizing its views on the appropriateness of imposing United Nations sanctions, in accordance with paragraph 1 of resolution 2187 (2014).

Middle East

Iraq

On 18 November, the Council held a briefing and consultations on the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (S/2014/774) and the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives (S/2014/776). In his briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Nickolay Mladenov, stated that as the crisis unfolded, Iraq had neared the point of collapse. However, faced with a common threat, Iraq's political, community and religious leadership had focused on pulling Iraq back from the brink. He said the new Government of Iraq was seeking to improve cooperation with local tribes, while seeking to restructure and empower the armed forces to fight the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) at the local level. The Special Representative said recent territorial gains against ISIL showed that the strategy, with international military support, was making progress.

On the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, the Special Representative noted significant improvements in Iraq-Kuwait bilateral relations and stated that, despite the sincerity, time and efforts that Iraq continued to invest in this endeavour, there had been no new discoveries.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, denounced the ideology of ISIL and noted the condemnation of the actions of ISIL by Islamic scholars as un-Islamic. He stated that ISIL was committing abuses in Iraq of "such a scale and gravity that in all likelihood they qualified as international crimes, subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court". He called for Iraq to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, or to at least refer the current situation to the Court.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, provided an assessment of the humanitarian situation, noting that some 5.2 million people across Iraq were now in need of assistance, including 1.2 million internally displaced persons. About 3.6 million Iraqis were living in areas under the control of ISIL. She indicated that \$173 million in winterization funding was urgently required. She told the Council that the situation in the region demanded a comprehensive response and that the protection of civilians should remain at the heart of national and international political, military and other efforts.

The Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, Mohamed Ali Alhakim, noted the peaceful transfer of power following democratic national elections in Iraq held earlier in 2014. He highlighted the commitment of the Government of Iraq to inclusivity for all religious and ethnic groups and thanked the international community for its continued military, political and humanitarian support. Mr. Alhakim stated that the Council's adoption of resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) had helped combat ISIL and had instilled in the people of Iraq the confidence that they had the support of the international community in their fight against ISIL.

During consultations, Council members condemned ISIL and its widespread and systematic violations of human rights and persecution of minorities. They expressed concern at the humanitarian situation, and reaffirmed their support for United Nations

organizations that were working urgently in preparation for the upcoming winter. Council members also reaffirmed their support for the inclusive Government led by Prime Minister of Iraq, Haider al-Abadi. Council members also discussed the importance of implementing resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), and the need to confront the ideology of ISIL. Some Council members stressed in this context the need to adopt a common approach in the fight against terrorism, as well as in stopping the illegal trade by terrorist groups in oil from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Council members also discussed the issue of the repatriation of all missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains, and the return of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives. Council members welcomed improvements in Iraq-Kuwait relations and expressed the hope that further efforts would lead to a resolution of this issue.

Killings perpetrated by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant

On 18 November, the Council issued a press statement (SC/11654) on the killing of United States humanitarian aid worker Abdul-Rahman Kassig, also known as Peter Kassig, and at least 15 Syrian captives by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. Members of the Council stressed that continued acts of barbarism perpetrated by ISIL only stiffened their resolve to counter the activities of terrorist organizations including ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida.

Lebanon

On 12 November, the Council held consultations under resolution 1701 (2006) on Lebanon and the operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Council was briefed by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Derek Plumbly, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

The Special Coordinator reported that the overall calm in southern Lebanon continued, although there had been some security incidents during the reporting period, including the firing of rockets towards Israel from southern Lebanon during the conflict related to Gaza in July and August and two serious security incidents in the Shab'a Farms area (Sector East). He emphasized the need for the parties to respect the ceasefire and avert escalation following security incidents. He also expressed regret that violations of resolution 1701 (2006) continued, including daily overflights of Lebanese airspace by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the ongoing occupation by Israel of northern Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line and the possession by Hizbullah of arms outside the control of the State of Lebanon.

The Special Coordinator praised the Lebanese Armed Forces for their response to security incidents in Aarsal, Tripoli and elsewhere in Lebanon, noted that support for the armed forces from across the political spectrum in Lebanon remained strong, and stated that the continued support of the international community would be necessary to assist Lebanon in meeting the challenges associated with the influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic. He also noted that the failure to select a new President risked leading to a state of stagnation in government and parliament. He encouraged the Council to deliver another message to Lebanon's parliamentarians on the importance of selecting a new President, building on the presidential statement issued by the Council on 29 May ([S/PRST/2014/10](#)).

The Assistant Secretary-General confirmed that the parties were continuing to cooperate with UNIFIL and use existing liaison arrangements through the UNIFIL tripartite mechanism in response to security incidents. He noted that the partnership between UNIFIL and the armed forces was strong, including joint exercises and training, and said there had been a brief suspension of some of these activities when the armed forces needed to respond to attacks on Arsal by ISIL in August and Jabhat Al Nusrah. He also welcomed the visit to UNIFIL headquarters of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon.

Council members commended UNIFIL for the role it played in maintaining stability in southern Lebanon and the armed forces for their efforts to respond to security challenges. Council members recognized that the ongoing vacancy in the presidency carried risks for Lebanon. Many Council members also underscored the importance of continued international support for Lebanon through the Council, the International Support Group for Lebanon and bilateral partnerships, including provision of assistance to Lebanon in managing its large refugee population. Council members also recognized the importance of providing material support to the armed forces. Council members further emphasized the importance of the preservation of national unity by all parties in Lebanon, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda Declaration, and stressed the importance of the respect of all parties in Lebanon for the policy of disassociation.

Council members agreed on press elements, which were read out to the press by the President of the Council following the consultations.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 17 November, the Council held its monthly session on the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The acting Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, provided a briefing, after which the Council held closed consultations. In his briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General stated that the Secretary-General was alarmed by tensions in Jerusalem which had continued since the Council's emergency session on 29 October and was concerned that violence had spread elsewhere in Israel and the West Bank. He also stated that the Secretary-General called on all sides to do everything possible to avoid exacerbating an already tense situation and that it was essential for all sides to demonstrate responsible leadership, to avoid taking unilateral actions and to refrain from inciting their supporters to act through inflammatory rhetoric. He expressed concern at the increase in demolition of buildings in Palestine, the risk of the forcible transfer of the Um al-Kheir Bedouin community and the ongoing settlement activity of Israel, which, he said, constituted a violation of international law. He stated that the Secretary-General urged the parties to return to peace talks.

The Assistant Secretary-General noted that the temporary Gaza reconstruction mechanism had begun its operations earlier in November. The mechanism's priority was the provision of reconstruction material for urgent repair of shelters. An estimated 80,000 people remained without shelter in Gaza, including about 30,000 in facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). He called on donors to honour the pledges made at the Cairo Conference on Palestine of 12 October and stated that Israel's plan to increase the number of daily truck loads of construction materials entering the Gaza Strip to 800 from the current 350 was encouraging. He also emphasized that reconstruction

in Gaza was doomed to fail without a long-term ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians and noted Egypt's intention to hold talks in mid-November.

The Assistant Secretary-General reported that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Syrian Arab Republic, Staffan de Mistura, had held a second round of discussions with the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bashar al-Assad, and Government officials on his proposals for incremental "freezes" in the conflict and asked for the Council's continued support for the role and efforts of the Special Envoy. He also reported that the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) continued to observe heavy clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition, as well as air strikes by Syrian armed forces, inside the area of separation and area of limitation.

In closed consultations, many Council members condemned recent incidents of violence in Jerusalem and called for the restoration of calm and welcomed comments by the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, that the status quo on access to the holy sites in Jerusalem would be maintained. Some members called for the Council to make a stronger contribution to efforts to bring the parties back to negotiations towards the two-State solution and said that Israeli settlements undermined the prospects for peace. Some Council members also expressed in-principle support for the Special Envoy's proposals for localized freezes. Some Council members said they would have questions for the Special Envoy regarding the proposals at his next briefing of the Council.

On 19 November, the Council adopted a statement to the press (SC/11660) in which the members condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in a synagogue in Jerusalem on 18 November, which resulted in the murder of four innocent civilians worshipping at the synagogue and a police officer, as well as the injury of many more persons.

Syrian Arab Republic (chemical weapons)

On 5 November, the Council held consultations on the Syrian Arab Republic and was briefed, through video teleconferencing from Beirut, by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Sigrid Kaag, on the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013) and the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. The briefing was based on the monthly report of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the letter dated 27 October (S/2014/767) from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council regarding the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013).

The Special Adviser updated the Council on the three key remaining areas of work relating to the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013): (a) the consultations of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons with the Syrian Arab Republic for the purpose of addressing concerns regarding its declaration to that organization on its chemical weapons programme, in line with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), (b) the preparations for commencement of the destruction of the 13 remaining chemical weapons production facilities (including the recently declared ricin facility) and (c) the investigation of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Fact-Finding Mission into the use of chlorine as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Special Adviser said the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Declaration Assessment Team was in Damascus at the time of the briefing, where the Team continued discussions with the Syrian authorities. During her visit to Damascus, the Special Adviser had emphasized to ministers of the Syrian Arab Republic the need for full and transparent answers to all of the remaining declaration issues. Some Council members expressed frustration at the delays in resolving concerns associated with the declaration and subsequent disclosures of the Syrian Arab Republic, and urged the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate closely with the Declaration Assessment Team in addressing those issues promptly.

The Special Adviser informed the Council that negotiations with the companies that would undertake the destruction of the production facilities were almost finalized, and destruction of the production facilities was scheduled to commence in late November 2014. Destruction of all production facilities was likely to be completed by the summer of 2015.

Many Council members expressed concern about the Fact-Finding Mission's discovery that chlorine had been used as a weapon repeatedly and systematically in the Syrian Arab Republic, and reiterated their calls for the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons to be brought to justice. Council members expressed support for the continuing investigations of the Fact-Finding Mission, with several emphasizing that the Mission's reports should be transmitted to the Council, given the relevance of the findings to monitoring the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013). The Special Adviser indicated that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was currently compiling additional information to support the findings contained in the Mission's second report, which might be issued in December. She noted that the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons could ask the Secretary-General to circulate the reports to the Council and stated that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons might be in a position to prepare a consolidated report which could be shared with the Council.

One Council member said that only purely technical issues remained in terms of the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, and that ongoing Council monitoring of the task was both unnecessary and counterproductive. Many Council members stressed that the full implementation of resolution 2118 (2013) had not yet been accomplished and that the Council needed to continue monitoring vigilantly the efforts to achieve the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic until this had been completed, as well as elimination of the use of chemical weapons which was in violation of the provisions of resolution 2118 (2013).

Syrian Arab Republic (humanitarian issues)

On 25 November, the Council held a briefing and consultations under resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014) on the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. She reported that the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) had served to help the United Nations deliver cross-border assistance to hundreds of thousands of people, and that since the adoption of the resolution, the United Nations had delivered assistance to nearly all of the hard-to-reach locations in the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Dar'a and Quneitra. However, considerable challenges remained in implementing resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). The number of people in the Syrian Arab Republic

who were in need of assistance totalled 12.2 million, 5 million of whom were children. There were now 7.6 million people internally displaced and 3.2 million that had fled the country.

The Under-Secretary-General further reported that violence and abuses of human rights continued on a daily basis. This included the use of torture, murder, rape and enslavement by ISIL, punishments and attacks on civilian services by opposition groups including designated terrorist groups, and aerial attacks, including with barrel bombs, by the Government against civilian areas, internally displaced persons camps and civilian facilities. She noted that 69 humanitarian workers had been killed since the start of the conflict, and sexual violence had been used as a form of torture, to injure, to degrade, and to intimidate, and as a form of punishment.

The Under-Secretary-General called for Member States to use their influence with parties to the conflict to ensure that they upheld their international humanitarian and human rights obligations and guaranteed regular and unhindered access. She asked the Council to continue to call for an end to the bureaucratic obstacles which hindered the delivery of assistance, to push for the inclusion of medical supplies in convoys; to call for the lifting of sieges and to push for an end to the violence. The Under-Secretary-General appealed to donors to do more to fund humanitarian action in response to the Syrian crisis. She noted that a 12-month extension of the mandate of the United Nations humanitarian monitoring mechanism established by the Council in its resolution 2165 (2014) would enable the continued provision of humanitarian assistance to those in need, and through the most direct routes.

Council members expressed gratitude for the efforts of humanitarian workers in the Syrian Arab Republic. Many Council members condemned continued violence by all sides in the conflict, including the use of barrel bombs by the Syrian military and human rights abuses by ISIL, as documented by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. Council members noted the progress that had been made in providing humanitarian assistance since resolution 2165 (2014) had been adopted, although many Council members asserted that much more needed to be done and noted the advice of the Under-Secretary-General with regard to the plans of the United Nations to scale up assistance. Many Council members said the mandate established in resolution 2165 (2014) should be extended to enable the United Nations to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need through the most direct routes. Council members affirmed that the Council should continue to support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Syrian Arab Republic in his efforts to promote a political solution to the Syrian conflict, including his proposal for freezes of the conflict in certain areas.

Yemen

On 8 November, the Council agreed a statement to the press on Yemen (SC/11638), in which Council members welcomed the formation of Yemen's new Government, underscored the importance of moving forward with an inclusive transition process and recalled the Council's decision of 7 November to designate three individuals as subject to the assets freeze and travel ban measures outlined in Council resolution 2140 (2014).

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 11 November, by a vote of 14 in favour and 1 abstention, the Council adopted resolution 2183 (2014), in which it extended the mandate of the multinational stabilization force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR Althea) for a further 12 months.

The Council then held a debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, briefed the Council. Statements were made by the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and the European Union. The High Representative raised concerns over the continued lack of political progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina and urged the new Government (to be formed following the 12 October elections) to reverse the political stagnation of recent years. He stressed the need to reinvigorate the business environment, in order to create jobs, and urged greater progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration. He also raised concerns over calls for a referendum on secession in Republika Srpska.

During the discussion, most Council members welcomed the orderly conduct of the 12 October general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They urged the swift formation of a government, called for political and economic progress and raised concerns about the use of divisive language by some leaders of Republika Srpska. Council members took note of the floods that had occurred in May 2014, and welcomed the assistance that communities provided to each other, but regretted that the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not develop a comprehensive recovery strategy. One Council member stressed that Bosnia and Herzegovina must be allowed to decide on issues of Euro-Atlantic integration for itself, without external influence or pressure, and called for the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

Several Council members expressed regret that the resolution had not been adopted unanimously. The Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations underlined that the Euro-Atlantic integration processes remained high on the list of the foreign policy priorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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)

On 12 November, pursuant to a request of the United States of America, the Council met to hear briefings on Ukraine from the acting Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ertuğrul Apakan, and the representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Chair of the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine, Heidi Tagliavini.

The acting Assistant Secretary-General provided a briefing on political developments in Ukraine, including the conduct of the 26 October parliamentary elections and the elections that had been held by rebels in Donetsk and Lugansk on 2 November, which had been deplored by the Secretary-General and many in the international community. He expressed the hope of seeing the urgent start of a comprehensive national dialogue aimed at rebuilding cohesion and addressing all

outstanding issues, while noting that the security situation in the east of the country was almost as bad as it had been before the 5 September ceasefire and that the prospect of renewal in the post-election environment had been overshadowed by violence. He called for a renewed commitment, from all parties, to the Minsk agreements.

Mr. Apakan stated that OSCE welcomed the Minsk agreements and the efforts to implement a ceasefire. He also noted that the level of violence in eastern Ukraine and that the risk of further escalation remained high. The OSCE monitors had observed ongoing fighting in many locations in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions, with artillery and mortar shelling often hitting residential areas, and causing casualties among the civilian population. The OSCE monitors had on three separate occasions observed convoys of unmarked trucks, heavy weapons and tanks in areas controlled by armed groups. He added that OSCE had yet to observe the withdrawal of heavy weaponry from the line of control. Mr. Apakan noted that the ability of the Special Monitoring Mission to monitor the implementation of the Minsk agreements, including ceasefire monitoring, presented considerable security and operational challenges. In order to increase its monitoring capability, the Mission had deployed civilian unmanned aerial vehicles. Since the commencement of the flights of the vehicles, on 28 October, they had encountered military-grade jamming devices and, on one occasion, had been shot at.

Ms. Tagliavini stated that much of the fighting had stopped since the signing of the Minsk documents, but that there continued to be fighting in some strategic locations, including in the outskirts of the city in the Black Sea port of Mariupol and around Donetsk airport, in disregard of the ceasefire and Minsk agreements. She called for strict observance of all the provisions of the agreements and invited all parties to the conflict to join her in an effort to further develop the peace process through agreement on additional elements for the implementation and further strengthening of arrangements signed in Minsk on 5 and 19 September 2014. Among those elements, she mentioned inclusive political dialogue, the elaboration of a comprehensive economic rehabilitation programme and provision of humanitarian assistance to the population in the conflict zone. She also pointed out that a sustained ceasefire between the opposing forces would never be achieved without complete and firm control over the international border between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, and that additional efforts were needed to reach that goal, based on the provisions of the Minsk agreements.

Council members welcomed the role that OSCE was playing on the ground and expressed concern over mounting civilian casualties, including among children, in eastern Ukraine. Many Council members welcomed the 26 October parliamentary elections in Ukraine, and condemned the conduct of the 2 November elections in separatist-controlled territory as illegitimate. One Council member conveyed respect for the will of the people of the south-east as expressed on 2 November, and stated that the elections posed no threat to the Minsk agreements and the peace process. Council members called for implementation of the ceasefire in Ukraine, and for all parties to uphold the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum. Several Council members expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine, particularly given the onset of winter.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 24 November, Council members issued a statement to the press (SC/11664), in which they condemned in the strongest terms the suicide attack on 23 November 2014 in Paktika, Afghanistan, which caused many deaths and injuries to civilians, including many children. Council members reiterated that no terrorist act could reverse the path towards Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability, which were supported by the people and the Government of Afghanistan, and by the international community.

On 27 November, Council members issued another press statement (SC/11678), in which they condemned in the strongest terms the attack that day on a United Kingdom Embassy vehicle in Kabul, which had resulted in a number of deaths and injuries to civilians and security personnel, and for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility.

Non-proliferation

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) (concerning non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction)

On 24 November, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), briefed the Council on the work of the Committee since its last briefing in May 2014. As an exception to the established practice of the holding of joint briefings by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) briefed the Council separately.

The Chair reported the progress made in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) during the reporting period through the Committee's efforts to encourage reporting from States that had yet to submit their first reports, identify assistance requirements for capacity-building and the development of voluntary national implementation action plans, facilitate matchmaking, cooperate with relevant international organizations and enhance outreach.

Council members recalled the importance of the work of the Committee when the risk of the acquisition by non-State actors of weapons of mass destruction remained of concern. Members recognized the progress made by the Committee, including its extensive outreach activities; the high number of reporting States; and the new tools developed to monitor and implement resolution 1540 (2004). Many Council members highlighted the importance of identifying information gaps and capacity to provide technical assistance. One Council member pointed out that the Australia Group was ready to share its experience in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) upon request, and another Council member called for registration of the Australia Group as an assistance provider.

**Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)
(concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea)**

On 10 November, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, Olivier Maes, on behalf of the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on the work of the Committee for the period from 5 August to 9 November. The briefing was presented in accordance with paragraph 12 (g) of resolution 1718 (2006).

The Chair briefed the Council on the Committee's discussions at its meeting held on 3 September, which focused on the midterm report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009), issued on 1 August, and the update by the Panel of Experts of its incident report, also issued on 1 August, on the launches of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in June and July 2014.

In the remarks that followed the Chair's report, most Council members reiterated their condemnation of the ballistic missile launches since March 2014, which were in clear violation of the Council's resolutions and generated tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Several Council members stressed the need for the Committee to act on the recommendations of the Panel of Experts in response to the ballistic missile violations by designating the individuals and entity involved. One delegation suggested that, in response to the launches, the Committee should expand the list of nuclear and missile items prohibited for transfer to the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

Several Council members welcomed the designation of the entity Ocean Maritime Management and the adoption of an implementation assistance notice in response to the *Chong Chon Gang* incident and emphasized the importance of full implementation by Member States of the designation. One delegation expressed concern that despite the Council's designation, Ocean Maritime Management vessels continued its operations, including calls at foreign ports, and proposed that the Committee remind Member States of their obligation to enforce the designation, including through impounding Ocean Maritime Management vessels and freezing their assets.

Another delegation suggested that the Committee undertake outreach in respect of the scope of the sanctions regime in response to one of the findings presented in the final report of the Panel of Experts (see [S/2014/147](#)), namely, that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was maintaining military relations with States in violation of the sanctions.

Two delegations spoke of the need for all parties to exercise restraint and avoid any provocative acts in the Korean Peninsula. One delegation also suggested that the Committee's work should be judged on the basis of whether it contributed to the denuclearization of, and peace and stability on, the Korean Peninsula rather than in terms of the intensification of sanctions. Some delegations emphasized the importance of six-party talks in finding a solution to the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula and called for work directed towards creating favourable conditions for the resumption of the six-party talks.

Several Council members expressed concern about the allegations of human rights violations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and reiterated their view that the Council should formally consider the report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, established by the Human Rights Council (see [A/HRC/25/63](#) and [S/2014/276](#)).

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan

On 24 November, in the Chamber, the Council received a 90-day report from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan. Ambassador Maria Cristina Perceval (Argentina) who updated the Council on the activities of the Committee during the reporting period, including engagement with Member States of the region, to identify information gaps and report capacity-building requirements for promoting implementation of the sanctions measures.

In closed consultations, many Council members expressed concern regarding the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur and reiterated the importance of the investigation of attacks on civilians, African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) personnel and humanitarian workers, by the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005). Some Council members raised concerns regarding the deficiencies in implementation of the sanctions measures, reflected by, inter alia, systematic violations of the arms embargo and travel ban. While some members welcomed the improvement in cooperation between the Government of the Sudan and the Panel of Experts, some others urged the Government to issue multiple entry visas to the members of the Panel of Experts to allow the unrestricted movement required to fulfil the mandate of the Panel of Experts. Some Council members reiterated the need (as expressed in a statement issued to the press by the Council on 19 November (SC/11658)) for UNAMID to be granted the access required to investigate the alleged mass rapes in Thabit. Most Council members welcomed the Committee meeting with regional States, given those States' key role in implementation of the sanctions regime. Some members underscored that the sanctions regime should support the peace process. One member called for the lifting of economic sanctions on the Sudan.

Thematic and other issues

Briefing on peacekeeping operations: post-conflict peacebuilding

On 20 November, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Julie Bishop, chaired a briefing on the topic "Peacekeeping operations: the role of policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding". This was the first-ever dedicated Council meeting on policing issues. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the heads of the police components of three United Nations missions.

The Under-Secretary-General emphasized the unprecedented growth in United Nations policing in recent years, representing an increase from a few thousand police at the beginning of the 2000s to 12,352 police currently deployed in 13 peacekeeping operations and four special political missions. That growth reflected contemporary challenges, including changes in the role of missions and in

the security situations that they faced, and the increasing number of threats, including the fight against terrorism, transnational organized crime and corruption. The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the need for increasing capacities, including in twenty-first century technologies, as well as in language skills in Arabic and French, and for more women police.

The Police Commissioner of UNMIL, Greg Hinds, emphasized the important role of United Nations police in reforming, restructuring and rebuilding host State policing institutions. Four key factors were critical to the success of institution-building: clear and specific mandates for policing, standardized and cohesive approaches, effective partnerships and the right skills and expertise. The Police Commissioner of UNMISS, Fred Yiga, emphasized that the performance of United Nations police was critical for the success of peacekeeping missions, with the police being the bridge between transitional or new Governments and civilians. He emphasized the importance for United Nations police of selection, guidance, training and skills. The Police Commissioner of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Luis Carrilho, said police components represented the front line of protection of, and contact with, local populations. Their work in protecting civilians ranged from protection from physical violence to the establishment of protective environments, including through capacity-building for local policing institutions. He emphasized that the presence of women in police components increased the ability of missions to establish relationships built on trust with the population, as well as enhanced their effectiveness, and in this regard reiterated the calls to Member States to consider implementation of the policy aimed at lifting the proportion of women police officers in United Nations missions to 20 per cent.

Council members welcomed the first-ever briefing by the heads of police components as an important opportunity for exchanges with practitioners from the field. Many noted the evolution in the role of police in missions, from passive monitoring to the exercise of many law enforcement functions and the provision of assistance in building accountable, professional police within the conflict and post-conflict environments of host countries, which required deployment of police with the right skills and expertise. Many welcomed the work of the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat on developing the strategic guidance framework for international police peacekeeping.

The Council unanimously adopted resolution 2185 (2014), its first resolution dedicated to policing issues. The resolution included a number of practical measures for increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations work on policing. In that resolution, the Council highlighted the importance of the role that police can play in support of the building of host State policing institutions; called for more prominence for institution-building in mandates, in mission planning and in the work (including good offices) of special representatives of the Secretary-General; and also called for greater emphasis on guidance, skills and training for United Nations police, particularly given the diversity of policing backgrounds that police from different police-contributing countries bring to missions. In the same resolution, the Council emphasized the central role of the protection of civilians, where mandated, in the work undertaken by United Nations police components, as well as greater coherence and coordination of the work of the United Nations on policing issues; expressed the Council's intention to consider holding an annual meeting with heads of police components; encouraged the Secretary-General to

consider the increasing role of policing, along with the many other critical issues related to peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in his upcoming strategic review of peace operations; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report by the end of 2016 on the role of policing as constituting an integral part of peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.

Briefing on general issues relating to sanctions

On 25 November, the Council held a briefing on general issues relating to sanctions. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Jürgen Stock. In his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General pointed out that the contribution of Council sanctions, together with United Nations peacekeeping and political efforts, to a number of situations over time, demonstrated that those sanctions worked. The Council's innovations in its use of sanctions, including the change from comprehensive to targeted measures, the introduction of expert panels to support implementation monitoring, and partnering with international organizations, including INTERPOL, further demonstrated the flexibility and cost-effectiveness of this tool. More work needed to be done to raise the awareness of all Member States that United Nations sanctions are supportive, not punitive; to provide assistance to Member States implementing United Nations sanctions; and to take into greater account the rights of individuals, entities and Member States designated for targeted measures. The United Nations Secretariat also needed to develop clear and coherent system-wide policy and guidance to support United Nations sanctions implementation. The Under-Secretary-General made a number of recommendations directed towards these ends.

Mr. Stock briefed the Council on how INTERPOL provided assistance to countries with respect to the technical implementation and monitoring of the Council's sanctions regimes. He described how INTERPOL used its global network and modern tools to communicate information on United Nations sanctions to police worldwide and to enhance the quality of information available to the sanctions committees and the Secretariat. His briefing also covered the capacity of INTERPOL to assist in the implementation and enforcement of travel bans, in coordinating international law enforcement cooperation on assets tracking and freezing, and in helping countries to apply arms embargoes by tracing the origin of trafficked weapons. In terms of further cooperation, he proposed increased leverage of the INTERPOL network, for example, through regional mechanisms for exchange of information with law enforcement officers, as well as enhanced guidance on implementation.

In their replies, Council members expressed their recognition of the targeted character of Council sanctions, and their broad application to a range of threats to international peace and security, entailing, inter alia, assistance to States in regaining stability, protection of civilian populations in conflict, and countering terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Members generally agreed that Council sanctions were not an end in themselves, but were to be used alongside political processes, and needed to be constantly evaluated and calibrated to achieve this purpose. Some members noted that Council sanctions were a measure of last resort and disagreed with some States whose policy was to apply sanctions other than as authorized by the Council.

Some Council members noted the importance of coordination — among the Council’s sanctions committees, panels of experts and Member States, as well as among United Nations entities, field missions and force commanders — to achieving the effective implementation of Council sanctions. One Council member stressed the element of ownership by Member States of the United Nations sanctions tool. The importance of communication with Member States was also recognized, in order to promote understanding of the nature of sanctions generally, the requirements set out in resolutions and the work of the sanctions committees. Some members also noted the low capacity to implement sanctions among Member States in Africa and the Middle East, where most Council sanctions regimes were focused, and therefore the importance of making technical assistance available to such Member States so as to enable them to meet their obligations under Council resolutions.

Counter-terrorism open debate

On 19 November, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Julie Bishop, chaired a high-level open debate on combating terrorism and violent extremism. The debate was held with the objective of maintaining international resolve to degrade ISIL and other Al-Qaida affiliates, and address two key dimensions of the contemporary threat of terrorism, namely, foreign terrorist fighters, and the spread of violent extremist ideologies.

The Secretary-General briefed the Council on the impact of the threat and the steps taken by the United Nations to support States in addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. He reported that terrorist groups spurred by violent extremist ideologies, such as ISIL/Da’esh, the Al-Nusra Front, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, continue to carry out brutal acts and cause profound suffering. Technology and globalization had made it easier to cause disproportionate harm, exploit narratives and profit from illicit financing, for example, from illegal trading in oil. The multidimensional challenge of violent extremism needed to be addressed at the grass-roots level. Since the adoption of Council resolution 2178 (2014), a number of specific steps had been taken by the Al-Qaeda Monitoring Team, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Centre and other Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities. The United Nations was examining how best to strengthen the counter-terrorism capabilities of United Nations special political missions, peacekeeping operations and United Nations country teams. He advised that this would be among the areas for review under the High-level Panel on Peace Operations.

As requested by the Council in resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), the Council also received briefings from the Chairs of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, Ambassador Gary Quinlan (Australia), stated that, while the scale of the threat posed by ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front was not new, it was qualitatively and quantitatively different because of the nexus between funding and the groups’ control over population and territory, and the thousands of foreign

terrorist fighters that had joined them. Both groups had a track record of summary killings, rape and sexual violence, trafficking in women and children, targeting of humanitarian workers and kidnapping and murder of hostages for income or political messaging. Globally, the threat posed by these groups derived from their networks of foreign terrorist fighters, the power of the toxic ideology and propaganda of ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front, and their operational innovations, which could create mobile transnational cadres of expert terrorists capable of combining terrorist, guerrilla and conventional tactics. ISIL benefited from a continuing revenue flow from a range of sources including from the sale of oil, extortion, kidnapping and ransom, and donations, while the Al-Nusra Front relied more on external donations and kidnapping for ransom.

The Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaite (Lithuania), also briefed the Council on the preliminary analysis of capacity gaps which may hinder Member States' capacity to stem the flow of foreign fighters. These encompassed inadequate legislation which did not yet criminalize the broad range of preparatory acts related to the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, and challenges in bringing foreign terrorist fighters to justice, including difficulties in obtaining evidence from other countries. Member States lacked adequate capacities to monitor communications through special investigative techniques, and gaps existed in the international exchange of information by law enforcement and intelligence officials. There was also a lack of relevant information and analytical capability at border crossings. A range of inadequacies existed in counter-terror financing measures including inadequate sharing of financial information between organizations and internationally. Some States had not yet taken adequate steps to initiate community engagement programmes or to develop effective counter-narratives for preventing radicalization and the spread of violent extremism.

On 19 November, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/23) setting out practical steps for the effective implementation of resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). Specifically, the presidential statement included steps towards improving information-sharing between States so as to prevent travel, recruitment and financing of terrorists. It identified emerging funding streams of ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front, which required greater vigilance by Member States to ensure adherence to international obligations. It also identified effective strategies and enhanced cooperation to stop the spread of violent extremism in communities, with the intent of better positioning the United Nations to tackle the causes of terrorism and violent extremism, by (a) enhancing coordination between States, (b) delivering more effective capacity-building, (c) improving coordination between United Nations counter-terrorism entities and field missions and (d) enhancing the efforts of Member States and the United Nations, including its strategic communications, to counter violent extremist ideologies that are conducive to terrorism.

In addition to Council members, some 46 States participated, under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council, as well as the delegation of the European Union, under rule 39. In their interventions, Member States considered that terrorism was one of the most acute threats to international peace and security and that defeating it required a sustained coordinated effort. Member States outlined national steps that they were taking to enhance legislation to detect and prevent travel and recruitment of foreign fighters, and to cut off their sources of financing,

including from illegal trade in oil. Regional efforts to strengthen cooperation were also highlighted. Many Member States acknowledged that information-sharing needed to significantly improve and that this was more necessary than ever in order to prevent the radicalization, recruitment and travel of terrorists.

Many Member States emphasized that defeating terrorism required a comprehensive approach which combined law enforcement and measures to address the causes and drivers of terrorism, and in this regard several States spoke in detail about countering violent extremism programmes, and about the importance of working with communities, civil society and the private sector. States emphasized that the violent extremist ideologies distorted and misrepresented religion.

Most Member States reaffirmed the vital role of the United Nations in promoting international norms, facilitating coordination and delivering capacity-building. Some Member States reiterated the need for stronger coordination across United Nations counter-terrorism entities. The need to mainstream counter-terrorism and violent extremism throughout the work of the United Nations, including the taking account of the aforementioned dynamics in conflict settings, was also referenced. Some Member States expressed support for the appointment of a special representative to counter the spread of violent extremism, and some others noted that it would be important to avoid duplication with respect to other counter-terrorism entities and their existing mandates.

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

On 26 November, the Council held a briefing on the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council of 26 July 2010 on the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (S/2010/507) (in a “wrap-up” session). Non-Council members were invited to participate in the meeting as observers.

After the wrap-up session, the presidency also convened a well-attended briefing for all Member States on the Council’s activities during November.

Informal interactive dialogue: the review by the Secretary-General’s High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations

On 20 November, at the request of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, an informal interactive dialogue was held between the Council and the Secretary-General’s High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations I. The Chair of the Panel, Jose Ramos-Horta, led the discussions on behalf of the Panel, advising that during the early stage of its work, the Panel would focus on listening to the views of all Member States as collective contributors to peace and security, with consultations to also include General Assembly committees, regional organizations and troop and police contributors.

Mr. Ramos-Horta advised that the Panel would consider past accomplishments and impacts of peacekeeping operations, identify critical challenges currently being faced by peace operations, and provide advice on what could improve the overall effectiveness of peace operations so as to ensure that they continued to serve as an indispensable tool for achieving peace and security. Consistent with its terms of reference, the Panel would look across the spectrum of both peacekeeping operations and special political missions. While the United Nations peace operations

review, the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture were distinct in nature and scope, the Panel was working to ensure there would be complementarity in terms of what came under the consideration of these three processes so that they could serve as mutual sources of information, and so that their outcomes would be mutually reinforcing.

During the discussion, the majority of Council members spoke about the centrality of the issue of the protection of civilians and the need to use force in defence of the mandate in contemporary peacekeeping missions, while also considering more traditional peacekeeping tasks such as the monitoring of ceasefires and peace agreements. Concerns were raised about the fact that capabilities for assisting peacekeepers in protecting civilians had not grown proportionally so as to reflect the centrality of the issue in the mandates of the missions to which 98 per cent of peacekeepers are currently deployed. Further clarity was required on the performance expectations of peacekeepers in robust operations, peacekeeping objectives and command structures needed to be more clearly articulated, and there was a need for the institution of better accountability mechanisms to help improve performance. Some Council members emphasized the importance of using modern technologies and innovative tools to protect civilians, as well as to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers operating in volatile security environments. Others stressed the need for further consideration of the modalities of their use, including the legal and financial aspects. It was repeatedly underlined that United Nations peacekeeping operations must be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with basic principles of peacekeeping.

Several other common priorities emerged during the Council's discussions, particularly on the need for clear and implementable mandates, for further improving gender mainstreaming, and for capability-driven planning and rapid deployments, particularly in crisis situations. The Council discussed the principles of peacekeeping and whether their interpretation and application remained valid in contemporary operating environments, particularly in situations where there was no peace to keep or where non-State armed actors were present. Several members also raised the issue of the need to improve partnerships with regional organizations and to further build capacities through the provision of training and equipment. Others raised the issue of the need for the review to consider the financing aspects of special political missions, noting that many such missions include uniformed elements as a result of the need for increased security. Several Panel members expressed strong support for resolution 2185 (2014) and the first-ever briefing by heads of police components as providing an important basis for the Panel's work on the policing aspects of peace operations.

The discussions provided a useful platform for the presentation to the Panel of the priorities of the Council on peacekeeping operations and special political missions. The Panel members noted that they planned to submit their report to the Secretary-General prior to the seventieth session of the General Assembly in 2015.

Elections at the International Court of Justice

On 6 November, the Council held elections for five members of the International Court of Justice, for a term of office of nine years commencing on 6 February 2015. The elections were held simultaneously in the Council and the

General Assembly. In the Council's first meeting, four ballots were required in order for a list to be obtained of only five candidates who had received an absolute majority of votes. When the Assembly produced a list of only five candidates with an absolute majority of votes, the President of the Council communicated the names on the Council's list to the President of the Assembly.

Upon comparison of the respective lists of names of persons who had obtained an absolute majority in the Council and the General Assembly, four candidates were announced as elected on 6 November: James Richard Crawford (Australia), Joan E. Donoghue (United States of America), Kirill Gevorgian (Russian Federation) and Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco). Balloting continued in the Council and the Assembly during further meetings on 7 November with regard to the final remaining vacancy, but there was no outcome. On 17 November, balloting continued as a result of which Patrick Lipton Robinson (Jamaica) was elected.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 8 November, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11637) on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in which Council members recognized the contribution of the International Criminal Tribunal to the fight against impunity and acknowledged the contribution of the International Criminal Tribunal to the process of national reconciliation and the restoration and maintenance of peace. Council members called upon States to cooperate in the arrest and prosecution of the remaining nine Tribunal-indicted fugitives and reaffirmed their strong commitment to justice and the fight against impunity.

Presentation of the report of the Council to the General Assembly

On 21 November, the President, on behalf of all Council members, presented the annual report of the Council for the period 1 August 2013-31 July 2014 to the General Assembly. On 25 November, under "Any other business", the presidency provided Council members with a summary of the Assembly's discussion of the annual report.
