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**Ré :** M/F N. FC/306/OK du 11 Juin 2014.

M/F N. FC/306/OK du 11 Juin 2014.

Faisant suite aux correspondances citées en référence, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, la dernière révision en date, du projet d'évaluation mensuelle des travaux du Conseil de Sécurité durant le mois d'Avril 2014, circulée par le Nigeria aux membres du Conseil de Sécurité.

Nous avons pu, à travers nos amis, introduire le reste des amendements de cette Mission, concernant la question nationale, qui n'a pas été incorporé dans la version précédente (mon fax sus-référencié). Il s'agit, en particulier de :

- La suppression, dans le deuxième paragraphe, de la phrase « the briefing centred on three main issues, namely, the status of negotiation, human rights and humanitarian matters as well as the activities of MINURSO ».
- La séparation, dans le troisième paragraphe, de la référence au calme et à la stabilité qui règnent au Sahara, du maintien du cessez-le-feu ».
- L'ajout, du mot « présumées/alleged » avant la phrase « rapports de violations des droits de l'Homme » et suppression de la phrase « and urged that the rights of the people of Western Sahara be protected ».
- L'ajout, dans le dernier paragraphe, relatif à la résolution 2152, de la phrase « It reiterated that realism and a spirit of compromise are essential to achieve progress in the negotiations ».

Cette nouvelle version contient, également, des amendements proposés par d'autres délégations, notamment :

- Dans la paragraphe 3 : ajout de la référence à la demande d'augmentation de 15 observateurs militaires.
- Référence à la reprise des visites familiales, dans le paragraphe 4.
- A la fin du paragraphe 7, ajout du bout de phrase « and to both show flexibility to compromise ». « le mot both » se réfère aux parties et aux pays voisins.
- Dans le paragraphe 8, ajout des termes « UN-led » pour qualifier la nouvelle approche de l'Envoyé Personnel. Il s'agit d'un amendement important qui va dans le sens de notre rejet de toute ingérence de l'Union Africaine. Il conviendrait de préparer l'inclusion d'un tel langage dans la résolution d'Avril prochain.
- Inclusion, dans le paragraphe 9 se référant aux consultations du Conseil, de la phrase « Some members urged the parties to take additional steps to improve human rights practices in both Western Sahara and in the refugee camps ».

Cette Mission va s'enquérir des délégations ayant proposé ces derniers amendements, dès la finalisation du texte. Le Nigeria a sollicité les commentaires des membres du Conseil sur cette version, jusqu'à Jeudi 24 Juin.



Hauté Considération

L'Amassadeur, Représentant Permanent

Omar HILALE

## **ASSESSMENT OF THE WORK OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF NIGERIA (APRIL 2014)**

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### **Introduction**

During the month of April 2014, under the presidency of Nigeria, the Security Council adopted six resolutions and issued eleven press statements. The Council also held two open thematic debates on Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Women and Peace and Security, with a focus on sexual violence in conflict and the quarterly open debate on the Middle East including the Question of Palestine. It also held a briefing on the Prevention and fight against genocide, under the agenda item - Threats to international peace and security.

### **AFRICA**

#### **Burundi**

On 8th April 2014, Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman briefed Council members in closed consultations, on latest political developments in Burundi. He advised that the activities of a youth wing of the ruling National Council for the Defence of Democracy (NCDD), known as *Imbonerakure*, was gradually forming into a militia group. He referred to allegations of NCDD youths being trained and armed by some senior officers of the national army to serve as a fighting force for the ruling party.

He further advised that on 1 April 2014 the *Imbonerakure* were embroiled in serious confrontation with youth from other opposition political parties, such as the Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (MSD) and National Forces for Liberation (FNL), which had continued to increase the level of tension in the country. Yet, there was no effort by the Government to address the situation; thereby fuelling suspicions of its designs to entrench a one-party system in the Country. He however noted that the Government had refuted the allegations and assured that preparations for the elections scheduled for 2015 were proceeding as planned.

USG Feltman noted that the increasing tension had affected the implementation of resolution 2137, particularly in the context of the provision of assistance by the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB)

to the Government in respect of the preparations for elections in 2015. The tenuous situation also had negative consequences on the transformation of BNUB into a UN Country Team which had already started. He opined that the reluctance of the Government to take urgent action on the political tension was a systematic plan to achieve a one-party system in Burundi.

Most Council members expressed concern over the rising political tensions, some members were concerned over the intimidation and violations of human rights by the ruling party while others deplored the extremist activities of some extra-parliamentary opposition parties. They further condemned any recourse to violence and reiterated their call for restraint by all stakeholders including political parties and security agents in the country. They stressed that inclusive dialogue was essential for a peaceful electoral process in Burundi. Council members also underscored that the Arusha Accords remained central to the democratic and peace process in the country.

The Security Council issued a press statement on 10th April 2014, expressing concern over the political tensions in Burundi and the continued restrictions on the press and on civil liberties, especially in the run up to the 2015 elections. It also condemned any recourse to violence, and expressed concern over reported acts of intimidation, harassment and violence committed by youth groups in Burundi. It underscored the urgent need for the government of Burundi to address impunity, while respecting the right of due process. It reminded the political parties of their obligation to publicly condemn all political violence and acts of incitement to hatred or violence, in line with the Constitution of Burundi and the Arusha Agreement.

On 24th April, USG Jeffrey Feltman's briefing to the Council in consultations of the whole focused on the expulsion of a BNUB Security Chief by the Government of Burundi. The act was linked to a UN report that alleged the distribution of weapons to members of the youth league of the ruling party. Council members were concerned about the development and called for mutual understanding between the Government and BNUB. They underlined the significance of close partnership in the interest of the Burundian peace process, particularly in light of the forth coming elections scheduled for 2015. Some council members urged the timely and smooth transformation of BNUB into the UNCT as per the SC Resolution 2137 (2014).

## **Central African Republic**

On 10th April 2014, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2149 (2014) on the Central African Republic. This was a culmination of months of Council deliberation on the best way to restore peace and stability to the country.

The resolution establishes the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and decides to transfer authority from the African-led International Support Mission to the CAR (MISCA) to MINUSCA on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014. MINUSCA is mandated to assist the Transitional Authorities in restoring peace and stability to the country.

Resolution 2149 mandates MINUSCA to support the transition process, including efforts to enable the extension of State authority and preservation of territorial integrity. MINUSCA is also mandated to protect civilians, monitor and report on the human rights situation, including to support the International Commission of Inquiry, and facilitate the immediate, full, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance.

## **Cote d'Ivoire**

On 24th April 2014, the Council was briefed in consultations on the whole, by the Permanent Representative of Chile, Ambassador Cristián Barros Melet, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Cote d'Ivoire. He gave a summary of the Committee's discussions during informal consultations on 21st March 2014 and thereafter summarised the main findings contained in the final report of the Group of Experts pursuant to resolution 2101 (2013) as well as the discussion of the Group's findings during the Committee's subsequent informal consultations on 11th April 2014.

Council members noted the appreciable strides being taken by Cote d'Ivoire towards economic recovery as well as the restoration of the security situation. They noted progress made in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of combatants as well as security

sector reform (SSR), national reconciliation and the fight against impunity in the country.

On 29th April 2014, the Council adopted resolution 2153 (2014) lifting the ban on the importation of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire and also partially lifting the arms embargo, differentiating between lethal and non-lethal arms.

## **Guinea Bissau**

The Council was briefed by USG Jeffrey Feltman in consultations, on recent developments in Guinea Bissau on 3rd April 2014. He advised that preparations for elections were proceeding smoothly with support from various international partners. Over 700,000 voters had been registered, representing 95% of the voter population. He expressed concern that some elements within the country were determined to derail the process through the intimidation of political personalities. He however noted that the situation was generally calm with participation by a fairly large number of political parties.

Following the briefing, a press statement was issued in which the Council acknowledged that funding and preparations for the upcoming presidential and legislative elections on 13 April 2014 were well on track in Guinea Bissau. It further condemned the episodes of political violence and intimidation in Guinea-Bissau and urged all national stakeholders to facilitate the conduct of peaceful and credible elections. It called upon all security services to respect the constitutional order, including the electoral process, and to submit themselves fully to civilian control. The statement recalled the readiness of the Council to consider further measures, as necessary, including targeted sanctions against both civilian and military individuals who undermine efforts to restore constitutional order in Guinea Bissau.

## **Mali**

The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Albert Koenders on

23rd April 2014. He noted that the restoration of constitutional order and the commencement of informal talks between the Government and armed groups were signs of hope for Mali to overcome its deep crisis. He however pointed to residual issues that portend serious consequences for security in the entire Sahel region and noted that the commitment of all stakeholders was required to consolidate and sustain peace and stability in Mali.

The SRSRG said that the naming of a new Prime Minister and his government on 11 April, as well as the 23 April appointment of High Representative for Inter-Malian Dialogue, Modibo Keita, had given impetus to the nation's determination to advance the peace process. He encouraged the Government of Mali and northern rebel groups to agree on a timeline and roadmap for formal peace talks within the context of the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement, as well as to implement their February 18 initial agreement on cantonment.

Mr. Koenders noted that Mali has an historic opportunity to capitalize on the significant presence of international military forces to forestall a relapse into rebellion.

In a press statement, Council members welcomed initiatives by the Government of Mali and regional and international partners to end the crisis, including the draft road map distributed by the Malian Government to the Security Council during its visit to Mali, from 1 to 3 February 2014. The members of the Security Council expressed their concern over the lack of progress on the peace talks and called upon the government and the signatories and adherent armed groups to the 18 June 2013 Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement, as well as other armed groups in the north of Mali that have cut off all ties with terrorist organizations and committed unconditionally to the Agreement to urgently agree on a road map with the goal of securing a durable political resolution to the crisis and long-term peace and stability throughout the country.

### **Sudan (Darfur)**

On 3 April 2014, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2148 (2014) by which it endorsed the Special report of the Secretary-General on the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (S/2014/138), as requested by

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resolution 2113 (2013). In that context, it endorsed the revised strategic priorities of protecting civilians, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and ensuring the safety of humanitarian personnel; mediating between the Government of Sudan and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, while taking into account ongoing democratic transformation at the national level; and supporting the mediation of community conflict, including through measures to address its root causes, in conjunction with the UN Country Team.

The Council was also briefed by the Joint Special Representative of the AU-UN Hybrid Mission in Darfur, Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, in consultations on the security situation in Darfur. He informed of the activities of the Government's Rapid Support Force (RSF) and armed militia groups, as well as attacks by the non-signatory movements on Government forces, which resulted in an escalation of violence in the region. . Around 215,000 civilians had been displaced so far in 2014..

Dr. Chambas further highlighted the involvement of UNAMID in the crisis by protecting IDPs from further violence, and supporting the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance. Consequently, he stressed that the current situation is negatively affecting the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and as such called upon the parties to de-escalate the situation. He also called for sustained National Dialogue as a means to end the conflict and set the stage for national reconciliation.

Council members welcomed the briefing and expressed deep concern at the situation on the ground. They also expressed hope for an all-inclusive process that could bring about durable peace, security and stability in Darfur.

On 24th April, in his briefing to the Council, USG (DPKO), Hervé Ladsous gave updates on the security, political, humanitarian and economic situations as well as the status of the peace process in Darfur. informed that the activities of both the Rapid Support Force (RSF) and armed militia groups were exacerbating the tense situation in both the North and South of Darfur.

It was noted that the current situation was negatively affecting the implementation of the DDPD and that renewed response and cooperation

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at all levels was essential; while inclusive national dialogue was deemed vital to foster cohesion and cessation of hostilities in the country.

Council Members condemned the escalating violence which had created a deeply troubling humanitarian situation. ~~They~~ called for the Government of Sudan to address all grievances in a genuine and transparent negotiation process and also urged that restrictions on freedom of movement be removed to facilitate humanitarian access to IDPs.

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### **Sudan/South Sudan and UNISFA (Abyei)**

On 10th April, SESG Haile Menkerios briefed the Council in closed consultations, via video eleConference on the implementation by Sudan and South Sudan of Resolution 2046 (2012). He indicated that since his last briefing to the Council in March, no significant progress had been achieved in the implementation of Resolution 2046. The ~~5 April~~ Summit on 5 April had been important, but did not go beyond reiterating statements of intent to resolve outstanding bilateral issues.

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On the Two Areas, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, Mr Menkerios informed the Council that the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) had set a deadline of 30 April 2014 for the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) to resume negotiations on a political settlement.

Mr. Menkerios noted that the ongoing crisis in South Sudan had continued to affect the implementation of the 27 September 2012 Agreements between Sudan and South Sudan. On Abyei, Mr Menkerios noted that the situation remained tense and that Sudanese ~~and~~ and South Sudanese ~~forces~~ forces remained deployed in Abyei in violation of Resolution 2046 (2012). He assured the Council that he would continue to work with both parties in collaboration with the Council and the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) to facilitate negotiations



between the parties towards resolving disputes related to oil, security, citizenship, assets, and their common border.

Council members were encouraged by the generally cordial relations between Sudan and South Sudan and urged both countries to follow through on their stated commitments and take additional steps to resolve outstanding issues between them, including the final status of Abyei.

## South Sudan

The Security Council was briefed in closed consultations on 10th April 2014 by USG Hervé Ladsous on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He expressed concern over the continued violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed by both the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-A in Opposition on 23 January 2014. He highlighted that both sides continued to seek military advantage in terms of territory and control of oil resources rather than engage sincerely in the IGAD-led peace process in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Ladsous also underscored the deepening humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, which had reached alarming proportions. He informed Council members that the situation is now being compounded by the onset of the rains and the risk of famine. Council members therefore called upon the international community to intensify humanitarian assistance to ameliorate the impact of the conflict on the population.

On relations between the Government of South Sudan and UNMISS, Mr. Ladsous noted that the recent interventions of both the Secretary-General and SRSG Hilde Johnson had been crucial in de-escalating the situation. He noted the public statement by the Foreign Minister of South Sudan where he expressed the commitment of the government to improve relations with UNMISS.

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Council members urged the parties to resume dialogue within the framework of IGAD's mediation efforts and respect the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in the interest of an early return to peace and stability in South Sudan.

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On 18th April, a Press Statement was issued expressing the outrage of Council members at the 17th April attack by armed groups in South Sudan that deliberately targeted civilians as well as UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) sites in Bor. They noted that such attacks may constitute a war crime.

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The members of the Security Council called on the Government of South Sudan to immediately take steps to ensure the safety of all civilians and UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites in South Sudan, to swiftly investigate these incidents, and to bring the perpetrators of these egregious acts to justice. The members of the Security Council also called on both parties to allow UNMISS to fully implement its mandate. They also called on all parties to refrain from actions or statements that could further escalate the situation.

On 23rd April, the Council met in consultations on the whole and was briefed by USG (DPKO), Hervé Ladsous and ASG for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović. USG Ladsous informed the Council of the deadly attacks in Bentiu and Bor, including IDPs seeking protection in the sites of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. He called for urgent action of the Security Council to forestall a recurrence.

In his briefing, ASG Šimonović informed the Council that the crisis in the country had resumed an ugly ethnic dimension with a possibility of spreading to entire country and even beyond. He reported that no place appeared safe for civilians as armed fighters attacked churches, mosques, hospitals and premises of the Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites of UNMISS.

Council members condemned the killings and emphasised the need for perpetrators to be brought to justice. They underscored the primary responsibility of the Government of South Sudan to protect all its citizens and to maintain public order.

On 24th April, the Council issued a press statement in which members deplored strongly the systematic targeting of civilians based on their ethnicity. They also expressed grave concern over the mounting number of IDPs which was exacerbating the already dire humanitarian crisis. Council members reiterated their demand for an immediate end to all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, and expressed their readiness to consider appropriate

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measures against those responsible. They also renewed their call upon the Government of South Sudan to immediately take steps to ensure the safety of all civilians, to swiftly investigate these incidents, and to bring the perpetrators of these heinous acts to justice. The members of the Security Council indicated their willingness to take additional measures should attacks on civilians and violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement continue.

## Western Sahara

On 16th April 2014, the Council held a meeting in private with the troop and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The Council and the troop and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINURSO, Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber.

On 17th April 2014, the Council was briefed in consultations by SRSG Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber and the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Christopher Ross, on Western Sahara.

Mr. Weisbrod-Weber informed members of the Council that the general situation in Western Sahara remains calm and stable. This was achieved through the conscientious efforts of MINURSO. He

On the humanitarian aspect, the SRSG noted family visits and seminars. He referred to MINURSO's continued logistical support and the cooperation of , which enabled the UNHCR to smoothly implement the confidence building measures programme to facilitate contact and communication between the Saharan refugees in the camps near Tindouf in Algeria and their families in the territory.

On demining activities, Mr. Weisbrod-Weber informed Council members that MINURSO's Mine Action Coordination Centre had maintained 85% of cluster strike areas. He indicated that MINURSO would continue to improve cooperation with the Government of Morocco,

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the Frente Polisario and non-governmental organisations in carrying out this task.

Mr. Ross advised the Council on the latest initiative to hold bilateral consultations and shuttle diplomacy with relevant stakeholders with a view to achieving a compromise and mutually acceptable political solution to the situation in Western Sahara. He also noted that the initiative was welcomed by all stakeholders.

He noted that the substance of the negotiations remained unchanged despite the long period of talks without any progress. He emphasised that with the new approach, progress would rely upon the parties and neighbouring states. He called on the parties and neighbouring countries to deepen their level of commitment to the talks

Council members expressed support for the on-going approach and urged the parties, neighbouring countries and group of friends to deepen their commitment to the negotiation process. They affirmed that a mutually acceptable political solution was the only lasting political solution to the conflict. Several other members stated their support for Morocco's autonomy plan. Others called for the improvement of the relations between Morocco and Algeria in order to help creating good atmosphere for the negotiations. They also commended MINURSO for its vital role in monitoring the cease-fire and for its contribution in demining activities and humanitarian measures. A number of delegations referred to the situation in the broader Sahel region and its impact on the conflict.

Council members expressed concern about reports on human rights violations. All delegations noted the reforms undertaken by Morocco in the field of human rights and in particular, welcomed the decision by the Government of Morocco to continue cooperating with the Special procedures of the Human Rights Council and its intention to respond to all human rights complaints referred to it by the National Council on Human Rights within a three-month time frame. Some members

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were concerned about the possible politicisation of the issue of human rights in Western Sahara. Some Council members expressed their concern about the situation of the population in the Tindouf camps in Algeria, and requested a refugee registration of this population.

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The Council adopted resolution 2152 (2014) extending the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2015. The resolution also reaffirms the need for full respect of the military agreements reached with MINURSO with regard to the ceasefire and calls on the parties to adhere fully to those agreements. It further calls upon the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, with a view to achieving a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

## EUROPE

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

On 13th April 2014, the Council held a briefing in relation to the 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).

The Council was briefed by ASG ~~...~~ Fernandez-Taranco. He informed of increasing calls by some elements in Ukraine for secession. He also noted that the situation had assumed a violent dimension due to the activities of unidentified armed personnel. ASG Fernandez-Taranco reiterated the call by the Secretary-General for all concerned to exercise maximum restraint, strictly adhere to the Charter of the United Nations and engage in direct negotiations.

He warned that the Ukrainian crisis would continue to deepen if steps were not taken to de-escalate the situation. He noted that it had the potential of spilling over to other parts of the region with grave consequences for international peace and security.

Council members called for restraint by all parties and expressed hope that the meeting between Ukraine, Russia, United States and the European Union, scheduled for 17 April in Geneva, would provide an opportunity to promote a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

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The Council convened again on 16th April 2014 and was briefed by Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović. He said that protest-related human rights violations in Ukraine must be urgently investigated and verified and security forces must maintain public order in accordance with human rights standards. The ASG further noted that unless addressed as a matter of priority, the situation there risked significantly destabilizing the whole of Ukraine, and called upon those with influence to take immediate action to ensure a halt to the violence. He underscored the need to de-escalate the tension and violence, and called on all parties to commence inclusive, sustained and meaningful national dialogue which accommodated the concerns of all those living in Ukraine, including minorities.

Council members had an exchange of views on the matter and called for restraint by all concerned parties, while underlining the importance of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States.

On 29th April, the Council was briefed by Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman. He noted that the spirit of compromise that had emerged from the quadripartite meeting between Ukraine, Russia, the United States and the European Union and had culminated in the 17 April Joint Geneva Statement on Ukraine appeared to have evaporated amid varying interpretations of the document and fresh violence in the eastern and southern parts of the country.

The USG condemned the detention of a group of military monitors and Ukrainian staff for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) since 25th April and called for their immediate release. He also decried the activities of militia groups and armed civilians that were springing up in cities across the region and urged expeditious work towards peace and stability.

Council Members expressed concern over the disturbing turn of events in Ukraine and called for restraint. They reiterated the need for the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. On the issue of the detained OSCE military monitoring team, most members called for their release immediately and unconditionally.

Council Members recognized the utility of the 17 April, Geneva Joint Statement to de-escalate the tension in Ukraine, and called on the

parties to faithfully implement its provisions. They also called on the parties to strictly adhere to the UN Charter.

## **ASIA**

### **Myanmar**

On 17th April, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole, by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, on the political and security situation in the country. He informed the Council of attacks on United Nations premises in Rakhine State, which had necessitated the relocation of about 170 personnel, amid increased polarisation between Buddhist and Muslim populations. He also noted irregularities in the way the country's recent census was conducted in Rakhine State. The SASG welcomed progress toward a nationwide ceasefire made in talks between ethnic armed groups and the government and noted the need to build trust on both sides.

Mr. Nambiar informed of the intention of the Secretary-General to increase the presence of the United Nations in Rakhine, being mindful of the security concerns in the State. He noted that this would require wider humanitarian access, better assurances of travel authorization for aid workers and steps that would be taken to protect local staff in Rakhine in the event of armed attacks. He also informed of an on-going system wide review which takes into consideration the conflict of sensitivities in the State.

Council Members had an exchange of views on the issue and called on the Government to address urgently communal violence in Rakhine and work diligently to achieve reconciliation between the Buddhist and Muslim communities.

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question**

On 29th April, the Council held an open debate on the Middle East and was briefed by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Robert Serry. He reported that during the preceding nine months, there had been unprecedented efforts to advance the peace

process. However, he said the efforts faltered over the inability of the parties to bridge gaps between their positions, leading up the decision of Israel to suspend the talks following the announcement of a reconciliation agreement between rival Palestinian factions - Fatah and Hamas. He stated that the Quartet, regional and international stakeholders had been actively engaged in the peace effort, recognizing it as perhaps one of the last chances to achieve a two-state solution.

The Special Coordinator called on the parties and all stakeholders to recognize this as a moment of truth. He cautioned that inaction could lead to crisis if care was not taken. He advocated joint reflection on the impasse in order to overcome it.

Member States expressed concern of the current impasse and called for the imperative to continue to support negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians as it was the only real solution to achieve the vision of two states living side-by-side in peace and security. Some regretted that Israel's actions had been linked to the Palestinian decision to participate in international treaties and conventions. Some emphasized that without Palestinian unity, there would be no future enduring agreements. Members also stated that any Palestinian government must commit to the recognition of Israel, non-violence, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations.

### **The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)**

On Thursday 3rd April 2014, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission of the United Nations-Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ms. Sigrid Kaag. She updated the Council on the level of implementation of Resolution 2118 (2013), which calls for the removal and elimination of Syria's chemical weapon stockpiles by the end of June 2014.

The security concerns prevalent in Syria were acknowledged by member states. They stressed the need for the acceleration of the process of removal of the chemical weapon materials from Syria, given that the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 for the completion of the operation was fast approaching.



There was also an acknowledgment of the continuing role of the United Nations in facilitating the completion of the operation. The imperative to continue to pursue the political track towards resolution of the Syrian crisis was also emphasised.

Ms. Sigrid Kaag also briefed the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April on progress with the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

On 17th April, the Council met again in closed consultations to discuss the situation in Syria, in light of the take-over of the Old City of Homs by government forces. It was briefed by Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos and Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez Taranco.

Ms. Amos informed the Council of the dire humanitarian situation in Homs as a result of the latest fighting between government forces and armed opposition groups. She urged the parties to desist from the use of siege as a weapon of war and reminded them of their obligation to allow humanitarian access to populations in need.

Mr. Fernandez-Taranco expressed concern over the outbreak of fighting in the Old City of Homs and urged the parties to return to the negotiation table. He reiterated the call by the Secretary-General for the warring parties to ensure the protection of civilians regardless of their political, religious or ethnic affiliation.

Council members expressed their grave concern about the humanitarian impact of heavy fighting on civilians in the Old City of Homs and the Al-Waer neighborhood. They urged the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 2139. In this connection, they supported the call by Joint Special Representative Brahimi for the resumption of discussions between the Syrian authorities and a Negotiating Committee representing the civilians and fighters still trapped in the Old City of Homs as well as the inhabitants of the Al-Waer neighbourhood in order to reach a comprehensive agreement.

On 30th April, the Council was again briefed by Ms. Amos who informed of the continued violation by all parties of resolution 2139. She expressed concern over the indiscriminate attacks on civilians in

contravention of human rights principles and international humanitarian law. said that UN agencies and their partners continued to provide millions of Syrians with humanitarian assistance in extremely difficult and challenging conditions, that over three million children were vaccinated as part of the polio campaign in April, food aid was dispatched for just over four million people, and water and sanitation support benefited nearly 17 million people, particularly in those besieged locations, identified by the Security Council in Resolution 2139. Ms. Amos reported that there had been limited progress on the delivery of medical supplies to hard-to-reach areas and that there had not been any additional cross-border convoys through the Nusaybin/Qamishly crossing since 25th March 2014. She called for pragmatic arrangements by the Council to result in substantially greater cross line and cross border access particularly to besieged locations as well as to recognize the reality of UN founding values and the responsibility of a state to look after its own people being violated every day and act on it.

Council members expressed concern over the non-implementation of resolution 2139 which had dire consequences on the humanitarian situation. They called on the parties to live up to their obligations under international humanitarian law and take actions to put an end to the violence. They underscored the futility of seeking resolution of the conflict by military means and called on the parties to return to the Geneva process without preconditions.

## **Yemen**

On 24th April, the Security Council was briefed in consultations on the whole, by SASG Jamal Benomar on the situation in Yemen. He informed that the political transitional process in Yemen remained on track. He also noted the remarkable progress made by the 17 member Constitution Drafting Committee. The SASG stressed that the issue of federalism was of major concern to the Committee and noted that technical preparations regarding the review of the voters register as well as registration was under way.

He identified the activities of Al-Qaeda affiliated groups throughout the country as a major threat to the ongoing political process and commended the efforts of the Government in combating the menace.

Council members were encouraged by the progress recorded in the work of the Constitution Drafting Committee and expressed a desire to see its work concluded within the agreed time frame. They looked forward to close cooperation between the 2140 Sanctions Committee and the Government of Yemen, regional partners and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to ensure that spoilers are dealt with. They also expressed concern over the activities of Al-Qaeda related groups in Yemen particularly in the south and assured of their support in the fight against terrorism.

## **THEMATIC ISSUES AND OTHER MATTERS**

### **Human Rights Situations in Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, South Sudan and Syria**

On 9 April 2014, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay on the human rights situation in Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Libya and Mali. The High Commissioner in her briefing, detailed the human rights violations prevalent in these countries such as targeted killing of civilians, executions, sexual violence, torture and illegal detentions. Emphasizing the role of justice in achieving sustainable peace, she underscored the role of the Council in ensuring accountability for impunity as a means to safeguard international peace and security. To this end, she called on the Council to send an unequivocal message that human rights abuses would not go unpunished.

On Syria, the High Commissioner noted the continuing widespread systematic violation of human rights and international humanitarian laws by the Syrian government, its militia and opposition groups. She also informed that the Commission of Inquiry had reported an increase in the indiscriminate use of barrel bombs by the Syrian government and its use of forced disappearance as a weapon to intimidate civilians sympathetic to the opposition. She urged the Security Council to exert influence on parties to the conflict and refer human rights violations to the International Criminal Court. She also urged the Syrian government to give full and unfettered access to human rights agencies and UN teams.

The High Commissioner commended the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan for its role in protecting civilians in South Sudan and referred to the interim report presented by the UNMISS in February 2014 to the Council documenting human rights abuses committed in the country. She informed the Council that a more comprehensive report was expected in April 2014. To aid transparency, she called on the government of South Sudan to provide further information on the investigations being carried out into the alleged involvement of several individuals in the killings of civilians in Juba.

On Central African Republic, the High Commissioner drew attention to the urgent need for stronger international engagement with the country and pointed to the lack of functional governance and justice systems across the country. She notified the Council that the Commission of Inquiry had commenced its investigations into human rights violations in the country and had embarked on its first field mission from 11<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014. She also informed the Council of the investigation by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights office into the incident of March 29 in Bangui. She called on the Council to support the transitional authorities in Bangui to meet the February 2015 target date for Presidential elections. The High Commissioner also called for the proposed UN peacekeeping mission to have a human rights component to enable it address critical human rights issues.

Speaking on Libya, the High Commissioner noted the challenges to the rule of law which could precipitate an eventual breakdown and informed the Council of the suspension of activities of several law courts in the country arising from the sustained threats against judicial officers. While welcoming the efforts of the Libyan government to ensure the trial of perpetrators of past crimes, she drew attention to the outstanding screening process of detainees.

While commending the government of Mali for the remarkable advances it had made, the High Commissioner expressed concern over the fragile political situation in the country, particularly in its Northern region. She highlighted the role of the human rights division of the United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in aiding the government to implement its obligations under human rights and international humanitarian laws. Furthermore, she emphasized the need to address the regional dimension of the conflict in Mali in order to engender cooperation across the Sahel region.

Council members expressed their concern over the persistent violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws in these countries and cautioned perpetrators of such heinous acts of their culpability under international law. They highlighted the imperative to protect human rights particularly in light of the nexus between human rights and peace and security.

A majority of Council members called for the human rights violations in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court while others urged the international community to proceed with caution in order not to exacerbate the tenuous situation. They called on the government of South Sudan and the various parties to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry. Additionally, the Council decried the sectarian and religious nature of the conflict in the Central African Republic and stressed the need for a multidimensional mission in the country with a strong human right component to support the Commission of Inquiry. With regards to Libya, the Council expressed its frustration on the lack of progress in Libya with relation to the screening of detainees despite the government's claims to the contrary and the extrajudicial activities of armed groups.

### **Threats to International Peace and Security: Prevention and Fight against Genocide**

On the 16th April 2014, Council members were briefed by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and former Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, Ambassador Colin Keating on the topic: Prevention and Fight against Genocide. The briefings were to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who were opposed to the genocide were also killed.

In his briefing, DSG Jan Eliasson alluded to the speech of the Secretary-General in Kigali on 7 April 2014, describing the genocide in Rwanda as the darkest chapter in human history. He underlined the necessity for the Council to recall the event and take steps to improve its response to early warning signs that may have prevented such an occurrence. He noted the need to seek justice for the victims and survivors, as well as the imperative for prevention of genocide in all parts of the

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word. He encouraged others to follow Rwanda's lead and institutionalize prevention mechanisms against genocide.

In his briefing, Ambassador Colin Keating who was the President of the Security Council in April 1994, started by paying tribute to the victims and survivors of the genocide. He apologised for the Council's inaction and blamed the massacre of over eight hundred thousand (800,000) Tutsi and moderate Hutus on the failure of the Council to recognize early signs that preceded the genocide and the Secretariat for failing to provide useful information to that end.

Ambassador Keating noted that although the Council lacked the political will to act at that time, efforts were made by some Council members to stop the genocide. He gave example of the draft resolution introduced by Nigeria, Argentina and New Zealand among others to reinforce the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), which was vetoed. He also informed of the efforts of the Presidency of the Council to organize daily meetings with Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) on the issue. He acknowledged those Council members that joined with New Zealand in 1994 to condemn the genocide and to reinforce UNAMIR, ~~including~~ Nigeria, the Czech Republic, Spain, Argentina and Djibouti.

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Ambassador Keating underscored the importance of horizon scanning and commended the mainstreaming of the Responsibility to Protect concept as a demonstration that lessons had indeed been learned.

Council members shared the opinion of the briefers that the genocide in Rwanda was as a result of lack of political will to act by the international community. They called for the effective strengthening of international and regional cooperation to avoid repetition of the tragedy in Rwanda in future

Some members noted that the unfolding scenarios in the Central African Republic, Syria and South Sudan were indications that the world was still susceptible to the Rwandan experience if steps were not taken to address the issues. They stressed the role of the work of international criminal tribunals and courts (including the ICTR and ICC) to end impunity and ensure accountability for genocide and other serious international crimes.

The Council also unanimously adopted resolution 2150 (2014) on the Prevention and Fight against Genocide. The resolution called upon States to recommit to prevent and fight against genocide, and other serious crimes under international law and reaffirmed the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the Responsibility to Protect. It underscored the importance of taking into account lessons learned from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed. The resolution also condemned any denial of this genocide. The resolution further recognized the responsibility of States to respect and ensure the human rights of their citizens as well as other individuals within their territory and called for intensified regional and international cooperation towards preventing and punishing of the crime of genocide.

The resolution requested the Secretary-General to ensure greater collaboration between existing early warning mechanisms for genocide prevention and other serious international crimes in order to facilitate response to the menace. The resolution underscored the significance of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and calls upon States to become parties to it as soon as possible.

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The resolution called upon all States to cooperate with the ICTR, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and the Government of Rwanda in the arrest and prosecution of the remaining nine ICTR-indicted fugitives, as well as all other fugitives accused of genocide residing on their territories, including those who are FDLR leaders.

## **Women and Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict**

On 25th April 2014, the Council held an open debate on Women and Peace and Security with the sub-theme, sexual violence in armed conflict. In his briefing, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern on the impact of sexual violence on the human rights and dignity of victims and noted that this had devastating consequences on both the individual and the society as a whole. He stressed that with political will on the part of governments, the UN team of experts on the rule of law and sexual violence in conflict could assist in building capacity to fight impunity for crimes of sexual violence, helping Governments to address reforms to the military and criminal justice systems and other crucial areas.

The Secretary-General noted the deployment of women protection advisers in peacekeeping and special political missions and stressed that their expertise on human rights, gender analysis and peace and security is helping to mainstream the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence into peacekeeping and special political missions. He stressed the need for UN actors and political leaders to work together to stop rights abuses before they occurred; and pledged the renewed commitment of the UN to better meeting the human rights responsibilities set by Member States through the "rights up front" initiative. He counted on the Security Council's continued leadership and support as they worked together to eliminate sexual violence in conflict.

The Council was also briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Zainab Bangura. She informed that the circle of stakeholders in addressing sexual violence had dramatically expanded to include political leaders at the highest level, uniformed peacekeepers, mediators, ceasefire monitors, war crime prosecutors and the full range of civilian protection, justice and security sector actors. She noted the great emphasis that the international community had placed on combating impunity as well as the attitude of zero tolerance it had adopted towards sexual violence. Ms. Bangura also noted that the critical challenge being faced now was to convert political will to practical action and transform resolutions into solutions, with a view to engendering change at the national level. In this connection, she emphasized the need to strengthen national ownership, leadership and responsibility.

Council members agreed on the need for urgent action to put an end to sexual violence in armed conflict as well as the need for perpetrators of such acts to be held accountable.

### **Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Security Sector Reform**

On 28th April 2014, the Council held an open debate on Security Sector Reform. It was briefed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who noted that security sector reform was designed to enhance the safety of the lives of citizens. He also noted that the United Nations had improved its delivery capacity through the Security Sector Reform Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Inter-agency Security



Sector Reform Task Force. It had developed standards and guidance to strengthen the impact of its efforts.

The Secretary-General however noted that more remained to be done, and underscored the need for national security services to have the capacity to perform their duties, which required improved mapping of needs and gaps, as well as facilitating a coordinated response from partners. He highlighted the importance of reflection on the institutional capacities within the United Nations, on the links to other areas — such as the rule of law and human rights — and on how to ensure the flexible resources needed to address conditions on the ground.

Council members underscored the need for national ownership of the security sector reform process, stressing that Governments had the sovereign right and primary responsibility for determining national approach and priorities. Some stressed that SSR processes must be inclusive, ensuring the participation of civil society, including women in the discussion and drafting of policies. Several noted that reform must extend beyond the traditional security pillars — the police, army and intelligence agencies — into broader peacebuilding and development efforts and that a security sector operated under the framework of the rule of law could strengthen public confidence in the State concerned. Others called upon the United Nations to deepen its partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations in order to optimize results.

The Council unanimously adopted resolution 2151 (2014), stressing that reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments was critical to the consolidation of peace and stability, reiterating the centrality of national ownership for security sector reform processes and recognizing the importance of considering of host country perspectives in the formulation of relevant peacekeeping and special political missions mandates. It encouraged States to take the lead in defining an inclusive national vision on security sector reform, informed by the needs of their populations.

The Council recognized that security sector reform must be in support of, and informed by, broader national political processes that were inclusive of all segments of society, resolving to link reform to such efforts.

**Implementation of the note by the President of the Council S/2010/507  
("wrap-up" session)**

On 30th April 2014, the Council held a private meeting on the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507) ("wrap-up" session). Non-Council members were invited to participate in the meeting as observers.

Members highlighted areas where the Security Council had been successful in addressing issues on its agenda, such as the briefing on prevention of genocide, sexual violence in conflict and the briefing designed to draw attention to looming crisis in Burundi. They also remarked on the Council's first stand-alone resolution on security sector reform. Council members however expressed views on the situations in Ukraine, Syria and South Sudan and highlighted the need to work concertedly towards more effective action by the Council.

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