

2. The situation in Liberia

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held nine meetings in connection with the situation in Liberia, including two closed meetings with troop-contributing countries,⁶ and adopted four resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter. The Council heard three briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

During the meetings, the Council considered the phased drawdown of the military strength of UNMIL and extended the mandate of UNMIL twice, for periods of one year respectively.⁷ By resolutions 2079 (2012) and 2128 (2013), the Council renewed the travel ban and arms embargo imposed by resolution 1521 (2003), for 12 months each time. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was also twice extended for 12 months, by the same resolutions.⁸

In May 2012, the Security Council visited Liberia among other countries during its mission to West Africa.⁹

Briefings on the situation in Liberia and UNMIL

On 11 September 2012, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of UNMIL, who reported that since 2003 Liberia had made significant progress in institutional rebuilding as well as the consolidation of its democratic processes and was very close to becoming “a true success story”. She stressed that

improvement of the security situation and the creation of lasting stability in Liberia were not only contingent upon security sector reform, which UNMIL was providing, but that the country also needed to enhance national reconciliation and implement structural political changes, which would require both political commitment and financial resources. With regard to constitutional reform and national reconciliation, she expressed the view that any comprehensive constitutional reform must be endorsed by referendum, which implied a high degree of public awareness. Given the large responsibility the police would bear as UNMIL transitioned, she stated that considerable attention should be given to increasing police professionalism, logistics capacity and recruitment efforts. Concerning the security situation along the border with Côte d’Ivoire, she stated that UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) had strengthened their inter-mission cooperation on border issues, and encouraged further cooperation between Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire.¹⁰

In his briefing to the Council, the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission emphasized that national reconciliation should be at the centre of the peace process. He said that it was featured as a core peacebuilding priority in the statement of mutual commitments between the Commission and the Government of Liberia, and that it was linked to processes of constitutional review, decentralization and election reform. Concerning capacity-building of the Liberia national police, he said that the Commission, having received the request from the President of Liberia, facilitated consultations on how to strengthen and coordinate training support to the national police. He added that the Commission was finalizing a resource mobilization strategy and corresponding work plan, working closely with the Government and UNMIL.¹¹

The representative of Liberia expressed her concerns about the security situation along the border of Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire and stressed that the matter required close attention because of its potential risks to national and regional security. While commending actions that UNMIL and UNOCI were

⁶ See S/PV.6828 and S/PV.7021.

⁷ Resolutions 2066 (2012) and 2116 (2013). For more information on UNMIL, see part X, sect. I, “Peacekeeping operations”.

⁸ For more information on the sanctions measures concerning Liberia, see part VII, sect. III, “Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter”. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia and the mandate of the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I. B.

⁹ For more information on the Security Council mission to West Africa, see part I, sect. 34, “Security Council mission”.

¹⁰ S/PV.6830, pp. 2-4.

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 4-6.

taking to support the national forces, she underlined the need for cooperation and collaboration between national and international forces on both sides of the border. She also reaffirmed the intention of the Government to honour its commitments made in the statement of mutual commitments with the Peacebuilding Commission. She stated that Liberia was seeking to promote justice, security and participation for its people and the effective management and use of the national resources. She also expressed her Government's disappointment with a few assertions in the report of the Secretary-General that were not entirely accurate and stated that the relatively open and constructive relationship between her Government and UNMIL over the years should allow the Government the right to jointly vet and verify assertions that upon publication could influence the views of the international community, including potential investors in Liberia.¹²

On 25 March 2013, in her briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported that the first phase of the security transition of UNMIL responsibilities to the Government had started in October 2012 and had been relatively successful. She added that UNMIL had begun its next military drawdown phase in accordance with resolution [2066 \(2012\)](#), so that, for the first time since 2005, military personnel of UNMIL were not deployed in every one of the 15 counties in Liberia. On developments in the country, she underlined some positive steps such as the conference to launch the National Vision 2030, a long-term political and economic agenda including a fair political system, security, the rule of law and national reconciliation. She also highlighted the launch of Liberia's first justice and security hub with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund. While noting some progress in the area of accountability, she stressed that the issues of corruption and tensions between branches of the Government had remained. Concerning the situation on the Liberian border with Côte d'Ivoire, she said that UNMIL and UNOCI continued their inter-mission cooperation at all levels and were working with both Governments to encourage the development of a common border strategy.¹³

At the same meeting, the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

reported on his visit to Liberia in February 2013, which had allowed him to consult with the Government on how to accelerate progress on security sector reform, rule of law and national reconciliation. He reported that the first regional justice and security hub had been inaugurated in Gbarnga during the visit and encouraged the Government to make the appropriate provisions, including planning and budget allocations for recurrent costs and delivery of justice and security services.¹⁴

On 10 September 2013, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General welcomed the work of the Constitutional Review Committee for preparing the national consultations and the launch of the National Reconciliation Road Map by the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, in June. Warning that many potential causes of conflict still needed to be addressed through long-term reforms, she expressed concern over the mismanagement of natural resources and corruption that was affecting the work of national institutions and economic development. On the three-phase military drawdown of UNMIL, she reported that, while the first phase had been concluded successfully and the Government and UNMIL were able to develop effective joint transition planning mechanisms, the Liberian security forces had been unable to scale up their operational effectiveness to assume increased security responsibilities and remained constrained by weak mobility, resources and administration. She stressed that Liberia required continued support from the international community for the challenges the country would be facing.¹⁵

The Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission regretted that only limited progress had been made with regard to national reconciliation in Liberia. While the National Reconciliation Road Map had been launched, implementation had been delayed and the funds had not been released by the Government, he added. On security sector reform and the rule of law, he noted that lack of Liberian police capacity, mobility, professional management and limited resources delayed the transition of UNMIL. Acknowledging that the progress in reforming and strengthening the judiciary had been slow, he encouraged the Government to step up its work in the areas of reforms, implementation, allocation of resources and timely disbursement of

¹² Ibid., pp. 6-8.

¹³ [S/PV.6941](#), pp. 2-4.

¹⁴ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

¹⁵ [S/PV.7029](#), pp. 2-4.

funds. Those efforts, he added, would allow the Commission to better support the Government in marshalling resources for justice and security. He noted the intention to inaugurate the second and third justice and security hubs in the second quarter of 2014, although the first hub, launched in February 2013, was still not fully operational. He also expressed concern over corruption related to land and natural resources and suggested that the international community increase its support to Liberia in this area.¹⁶

The representative of Liberia noted that the Liberia national police had taken over responsibility for security from UNMIL in some areas, but some personnel, logistic and budgetary challenges remained. He reiterated that, notwithstanding these setbacks, the Government of Liberia remained firmly committed to the road map as agreed. He emphasized that the UNMIL transition plan had been carefully calibrated to account for the capabilities and remaining challenges in Liberia, and warned that any effort to accelerate the transition process could destabilize the situation or undermine the gains achieved.¹⁷

¹⁶ Ibid., pp. 5-7.

¹⁷ Ibid., pp. 7-9.

Phased drawdown of the military strength of UNMIL

On 17 September 2012, by resolution [2066 \(2012\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of UNMIL for one year, until 30 September 2013, and endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General¹⁸ to decrease the military component of UNMIL from seven to three infantry battalions, totalling approximately 4,200 personnel, in three phases between August 2012 and July 2015. As a result of the reduction, the military strength of UNMIL would total approximately 3,750 personnel by July 2015. The Council also authorized the Secretary-General to implement the first phase of the drawdown, reducing the military component by 1,990 personnel between October 2012 and September 2013.

On 18 September 2013, by resolution [2116 \(2013\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of UNMIL for a further year, until 30 September 2014, and authorized the Secretary-General to implement the second phase of the military drawdown, reducing the military component of UNMIL by 1,129 personnel between October 2013 and September 2014. In both resolutions the Council stressed that the primary tasks of UNMIL were to continue to support the Government in order to solidify peace and stability and to protect civilians.

¹⁸ See [S/2012/230](#) and [S/2012/641](#).

Meetings: the situation in Liberia

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.6830 11 September 2012	Twenty-fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (S/2012/641)		Liberia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of UNMIL, Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
S/PV.6834 17 September 2012	Twenty-fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2012/641)	Draft resolution submitted by France, United Kingdom, United States (S/2012/707)				Resolution 2066 (2012) 15-0-0
S/PV.6884 12 December 2012	Letter dated 3 December 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/901)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2012/918)				Resolution 2079 (2012) 15-0-0
S/PV.6941 25 March 2013	Twenty-fifth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2013/124)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
S/PV.7029 10 September 2013	Twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2013/479)		Liberia (Minister of National Defence)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
S/PV.7033 18 September 2013	Twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2013/479)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Morocco, Rwanda, Togo, United Kingdom, United States (S/2013/556)				Resolution 2116 (2013) 15-0-0

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S/PV.7077 10 December 2013	Letter dated 19 November 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2013/683)	Draft resolution submitted by Rwanda, Togo, United States (S/2013/725)				Resolution 2128 (2013) 15-0-0

3. The situation in Somalia

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 22 meetings, adopted 11 resolutions and issued two presidential statements in connection with the situation in Somalia. The Council welcomed the strategic reviews undertaken by both the United Nations and the African Union on their presence and engagement in Somalia, and the development of a new national security strategy by the Federal Government of Somalia. The Council continued to express its concern at the threat posed by piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia, while stressing the need for a comprehensive strategy to tackle piracy and its underlying causes in accordance with international law, including international human rights law.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, the Council in May 2013 replaced the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) by an expanded United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), with a mandate of good offices in support of Somalia's peace and reconciliation process and to provide strategic policy advice on peacebuilding and State-building.¹⁹ Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended four times its authorization for the African Union to maintain the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM),²⁰ and requested the African Union to increase the force strength of the Mission.²¹ The Council twice extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group supporting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992).²² The Council twice extended the authorization for counter-piracy operations granted to States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.²³

¹⁹ For more information on UNPOS and UNSOM, see part X, sect. II, "Political and peacebuilding missions".

²⁰ Resolutions 2072 (2012); 2073 (2012); 2093 (2013); and 2124 (2013).

²¹ Resolution 2036 (2012).

²² Resolutions 2060 (2012) and 2111 (2013). For more information on the Monitoring Group, see part IX, sect. I.B, under "Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea".

²³ Resolutions 2077 (2012) and 2125 (2013).

Briefings on the situation in Somalia

From January 2012 to December 2013, the Council received several briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of UNPOS,²⁴ as well as the Secretariat,²⁵ on the basis of the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General, which provided an assessment of the major developments in Somalia mainly in the political, security, human rights and humanitarian recovery and development areas.

On 11 January 2012, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs updated the Council on recent developments in Somalia, including the joint undertaking of the African Union and the United Nations to develop the strategic concept of AMISOM operations. He informed the Council about the outstanding issues that needed to be addressed and outlined the Somalia strategy that had been proposed by the Secretary-General regarding the United Nations "three-pronged" integrated approach, aimed at aligning the political, security and humanitarian tracks. He stressed the importance of the international community, notably the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States, continuing to work in a concerted manner to address all outstanding challenges and build on the recent gains made in the peace process.²⁶

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union reported on the strategic concept for the future of AMISOM operations endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council, including the achievements and initiatives of AMISOM. He expressed concern that AMISOM was "under-resourced and under-equipped" and urged the Security Council to authorize the required support for the implementation of the strategic concept for future AMISOM operations.²⁷

The representative of Kenya, in his country's capacity as the Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, highlighted regional efforts in addressing the Somali crisis, especially the threat

²⁴ See S/PV.6729, S/PV.6770 and S/PV.6848.

²⁵ S/PV.6701, S/PV.6921 and S/PV.7054.

²⁶ S/PV.6701, pp. 3-6.

²⁷ Ibid., pp. 6-9.