

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
10 January 2012

Original: English

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**Letter dated 5 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

India held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August 2011. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

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

*(Signed)* H. S. Puri



## **Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

### **Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of India (August 2011)**

#### **Introduction**

During August 2011, under the presidency of the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, H. S. Puri, the Security Council held 17 informal consultations of the whole and 9 official meetings, one of which was held in private. In addition, the Council adopted one resolution and two presidential statements and issued eight statements to the press.

#### **Africa**

##### **Sudan**

On 3 August, the Council issued a statement to the press expressing sadness at the news of the landmine explosion in Abyei on 2 August that killed four Ethiopian peacekeepers of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and wounded seven others.

On 8 August, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning in the strongest terms the attack on peacekeepers of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) on 5 August, which resulted in the death of a Sierra Leonean soldier and left another seriously wounded. In the statement, the Council noted that UNAMID was working with the Sudanese police to find the perpetrators, encouraged the Government of the Sudan to ensure that the perpetrators were swiftly brought to justice and stressed that there must be an end to impunity for those who attack peacekeepers.

On 8 August, the Council held consultations on the situations in the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, on (a) UNISFA deployment; (b) the deployment of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan; and (c) the humanitarian situation in Abyei and Southern Kordofan. They said that while the deployment of peacekeepers was proceeding well, there were issues concerning access by humanitarian agencies to Southern Kordofan and the logistical base at El Obeid, which the Government of the Sudan wanted disbanded. They also mentioned that there had been delays in getting flight clearance for the evacuation of injured peacekeepers from Abyei and in getting visas for humanitarian workers. The members of the Council called for greater cooperation on the part of the Government of the Sudan. Some members criticized the Government of the Sudan for the lack of access by humanitarian agencies, while others called for engaging the Sudan to address its concerns in the aftermath of the independence of South Sudan.

On 19 August, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, and the United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, on the situation in Southern Kordofan. The Assistant Secretary-General said that the United Nations would meet the deadline of 31 August to withdraw all main bodies of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), while some staff would remain until all sites had been liquidated. He added that both the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North had been pushing for the early liquidation of UNMIS. The High Commissioner said that there had been a number of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including reports of extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests, as documented in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Some Council members endorsed the recommendation of the High Commissioner that an independent commission of inquiry into the allegations be established and expressed doubts about the credibility of the national mechanism of the Sudan to undertake an investigation. They called for the cessation of aerial bombardments. Other members noted the initiative of the Government of the Sudan to investigate the allegations through its national mechanism and called for the resolution of conflicts through negotiations under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan, led by the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios.

### **Libya**

On 9 August, the issue of the situation in Libya was raised by a member under "Other matters". Some members expressed concern about operations by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that had damaged civilian infrastructure. Other members defended NATO operations for the protection they afforded civilians. Some members supported, and others acknowledged, the road map of the African Union for the resolution of the Libyan conflict and called for close cooperation between the African Union and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Libya, Abdel-Elah Al-Khatib.

On 19 August, the Council held consultations on Libya during which the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Libya, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, Philippe Lazzarini, briefed the Council. The Special Envoy said that the Libyan parties had so far not been able to bridge the gap between political transition and ceasefire. The High Commissioner said that an independent commission of inquiry was investigating, in an impartial manner, all cases of violations of human rights in Libya. The independent commission was expected to submit its report to the Human Rights Council by March 2012. The Deputy Director expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Libya, particularly with regard to the shortage of food, medicines and fuel. Some Council members called for Muammar Qadhafi to have stepped down from power before a ceasefire was put in place, while others were of the view that a ceasefire should be implemented without preconditions and accompanied by an inclusive political process.

On 23 August, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe updated Council members on the situation in Libya, as part of a briefing by the Department of Political Affairs. He said that the developments in Libya were historic and that the Secretary-General was fully engaged with all stakeholders in planning for the United Nations assistance that the Transitional National Council

could seek for post-conflict reconstruction. Council members expressed satisfaction at the impending end of the conflict and said that the United Nations should play a leading role in the post-conflict reconstruction of Libya. They were of the view that the process of transition and political reform should be Libyan-led. Some members also called for the disarmament of armed groups so that the proliferation of arms would not create instability inside and outside Libya.

On 30 August, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General on the situation in Libya. The Secretary-General said that the United Nations response to the post-conflict challenge in Libya must be proactive and effective while being sensitive to the complex needs and desires of the Libyan people. As fighting wound down and urgent humanitarian needs were met, the most important job for the United Nations would be to ensure that multilateral, regional and national efforts complemented each other and were responsive to the wishes of the Libyan people. The Secretary-General also noted that in recent days there had been growing reports of summary executions, torture and human rights violations, which the international commission of inquiry would examine.

Following the briefing, the Council held consultations during which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya, Ian Martin, provided information about discussions he had had with Transitional National Council authorities and said that once the requirements had been finalized, the Secretary-General would request the Council to authorize a United Nations mission for Libya. The Council members said that the United Nations should play a leading role in the international response to the post-conflict requirements of Libya.

### **Somalia**

On 10 August, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Catherine Bragg. The public briefing was followed by consultations among the Council members. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that, owing to famine, the humanitarian situation in Somalia was dire and was causing deaths and displacement on a massive scale. The United Nations was making serious efforts to deal with the situation, the severity of which was compounded by security challenges. He urged the international community to respond to the humanitarian appeal. He also briefed the Council on the road map for the transitional federal institutions and said that those institutions would be held accountable for not accomplishing the transitional tasks in a time-bound manner. The withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu had created a vacuum that the forces of the Transitional Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) were trying to fill, despite the lack of resources in terms of personnel and equipment. The Assistant Secretary-General gave details of the humanitarian crisis. In their statements, Council members called for enhancing efforts to meet the humanitarian crisis and for ensuring that transitional federal institutions implement the road map. Some members also called for counter-piracy efforts by the Transitional Federal Government.

On 15 August, the members of the Council issued a statement to the press in which they strongly supported the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia to facilitate the consultative meeting that was going to be held in Somalia from 4 to 6 September, at which agreement would be reached

on a road map of key tasks and priorities to be delivered over the following 12 months and clear timelines and benchmarks to be implemented by the transitional federal institutions. They noted that future support to those institutions would be contingent upon the completion of the tasks set out in the road map. They commended the efforts of AMISOM and stressed the importance of predictable, reliable and timely resources for AMISOM. They also reiterated their grave concern regarding the problems of terrorism, piracy, hostage-taking and the dire humanitarian situation. In that context, they underscored the need for the expeditious implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including by the transitional federal institutions, as appropriate. They urged Member States to contribute to the United Nations consolidated appeal for Somalia and all parties and armed groups in Somalia to ensure full, safe and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

On 23 August, one member raised the issue in connection with a letter from the President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to the Security Council in which the work of the Coordinator of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, Matt Bryden, had been criticized. The member said that the monitoring groups and panels of experts should work strictly in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Council. Some members spoke in support of the work of the Monitoring Group and said that it was necessary to preserve the independence of the experts. The President of the Council said that the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea had discussed the recommendations of the Monitoring Group and decided which of those recommendations required action. This provided a structural framework for the Committee members to assess the reports of the Monitoring Group.

### **Central African region**

On 18 August, the Security Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, Abou Moussa, on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA). The Special Representative called on the Council to provide ongoing support for the efforts of the Office to stem cross-border threats to security in the region, such as the Lord's Resistance Army, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, trafficking in small arms and the potentially destabilizing effects of the return of many economic migrants from areas in crisis (e.g. Libya). He added that he was encouraged by the renewed determination of countries in the subregion to work together to address such threats.

In the consultations that followed the briefing, Council members expressed their support for UNOCA and urged the Special Representative to cooperate with the countries of the region, subregional and regional organizations and other United Nations bodies to accomplish the mandate of the Office.

Also on 18 August, the Council issued a statement to the press in which it encouraged UNOCA to establish partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and to mobilize, in a complementary manner, the various initiatives of the United Nations in order to help Central African States to face the regional challenges related to maintaining peace and stability, in particular the destabilizing effects of flows of small arms and light weapons, border and maritime security and the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army. The members of the Council also requested UNOCA to consider ways in which it could contribute to assisting the

States in the region with security sector reform, the promotion of human rights, the fight against transborder threats and the strengthening of the contribution of women to conflict prevention and resolution. Council members also recognized that UNOCA needed support to achieve its mandated objectives and looked forward to receiving a first report on the activities of UNOCA in November 2011 (S/2011/704).

### **Terrorist attack in Nigeria**

On 26 August, the Security Council issued a statement to the press condemning in the strongest terms the bombing of the United Nations building in Abuja. The members of the Council also expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of that heinous crime and to their families, the people and Government of Nigeria and the Secretary-General and other United Nations staff members.

## **Middle East**

### **Israel-Palestine**

The Security Council was briefed in consultations on 19 August by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, on the situation following a series of terrorist attacks in southern Israel. Council members considered a draft statement to the press on the incident but failed to adopt it.

On 25 August, the Security Council was briefed on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. After the briefing, Council members considered the issue in consultations. During his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General talked about recent terror attacks and escalating violence in the Middle East, the status of the Israel-Palestine peace process and the situations in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. He said that the differences between Israelis and Palestinians remained profound and expressed the hope that the international community would be able to shape a legitimate and balanced way forward to help the parties resume meaningful negotiations that would realize the two-State solution. Meanwhile, he said, the achievements of the Palestinian Authority in terms of State-building, security and economic improvement must be consolidated and bolstered, both through political progress and economic assistance. The Authority was experiencing a serious fiscal crisis and needed \$250 million in additional commitments to meet its obligations. The Under-Secretary-General called on donors to provide timely and generous support.

At the same time, he said, Israel had announced a series of new settlement expansions in the West Bank, with some 5,200 units planned in East Jerusalem and 277 units approved for the Ariel settlement — the largest number approved outside East Jerusalem in a single settlement by the current Government. Turning to Gaza, he said that the living conditions of the population there remained a priority for the United Nations. While imports into Gaza had increased by 12 per cent since his last briefing, a comprehensive easing of the closure of the Gaza Strip was needed, along with a substantial improvement in the security situation.

On the situation in Lebanon, the Under-Secretary-General highlighted several security incidents of concern, including the targeting, on 26 July, of a convoy of the

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) outside the city of Saida, which had injured five peacekeepers. He said that Israeli violations of the Lebanese airspace continued on an almost daily basis, and in high numbers. In addition, two explosions had taken place in Beirut, on 29 July and 11 August. On 13 August, a shooting had been directed at the property of a member of Parliament. Serious clashes had also erupted between armed factions in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Hilweh, and a school of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East had been hit, causing material damage.

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

On 1 August, the Council held consultations during which the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs gave a briefing on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. He said that more than 1,600 persons, including security forces personnel, had been killed in that country and that the situation had been deteriorating since March, when protests had begun. In their statements, the Council members called on the Syrian authorities to exercise restraint, abjure violence and implement political reforms to meet the aspirations of the Syrian people. While some members supported an action by the Council to call upon the Government to end repression and violence, others said that the Council should be cautious so as not to exacerbate the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 2 August, the Council held consultations during which it discussed the contents of an outcome document on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. Following further discussions on 3 August, the Council, in its first public meeting of the month, adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/16) in which, inter alia, it expressed grave concern at the deteriorating situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and condemned the widespread violations of human rights and the use of force against civilians by the Syrian authorities. It also called for an immediate end to all violence and urged all sides to act with utmost restraint and to refrain from reprisals, including attacks against State institutions. In the statement, the Council stressed that the only solution to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic was through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process. The Council requested the Secretary-General to update it on the situation in Syria within seven days.

On 10 August, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs updated the Council on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with the presidential statement of 3 August. He said that the Secretary-General had had a telephone conversation with President Bashar al-Assad on 6 August and had urged him to put an end to violence and grant access to humanitarian agencies. The Assistant Secretary-General said that the violence had continued and that, for want of access, the United Nations was not in a position to verify the claims made by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the opposition. While some Council members asked the Council to be ready to consider further measures, others were of the view that the Syrian authorities should be given time to implement the reforms that had been announced.

On 18 August, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The officials said that nearly 1,900 persons had died in the previous five months since the mostly peaceful protests had

begun in mid-March 2011. Some armed elements were resorting to violence against the security forces, but the demonstrators were predominantly peaceful. The Syrian security forces had committed a number of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Some of those violations might amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Due to ongoing military operations, the humanitarian situation had also worsened. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had accepted a United Nations humanitarian mission, which would visit the country from 20 August. Some Council members stated that President Al-Assad should step aside and that the Council should consider further action against the Syrian authorities. The other members praised the Syrian authorities for their willingness to engage with the international community and said that time should be given to those authorities to implement the reforms they had initiated. No action should be taken that might exacerbate the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 23 August, as part of a briefing by the Department of Political Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs said that staff of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs were carrying out an assessment mission in the Syrian Arab Republic and referred to the statement by the Secretary-General, according to which, in spite of his pledge, President Al-Assad had not stopped the use of force against civilians. On behalf of four other members, one member proposed a draft resolution on the Syrian Arab Republic.

As part of his briefing on the situation in the Middle East on 25 August, the Under-Secretary-General said that national security forces had continued to use excessive and lethal force against protesters in the Syrian Arab Republic. The failure to rein in the security forces undermined the credibility of reform measures announced by President Al-Assad. In response to the events in the Syrian Arab Republic, including a report received by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Under-Secretary-General welcomed the recent decision by the Human Rights Council to establish an international commission of inquiry on the matter. He hoped that the Syrian authorities would cooperate fully with the commission. Furthermore, a United Nations team had been sent to assess the overall humanitarian situation in the country.

In their statements, some members called for further Council action on the Syrian Arab Republic, while others welcomed the reforms announced by the Government.

The Council members also expressed concern at the continuing stalemate in the Israeli-Palestinian talks. Several members said that the situation could worsen with the Palestinians expected to approach the United Nations in September.

On 26 August, the Security Council held consultations in the Syrian Arab Republic. One member introduced a new draft resolution on the Syrian Arab Republic, which was supported by some members but not by others.

## **Lebanon**

On 16 August, the Security Council held a private meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

On 23 August, the Council held consultations on UNIFIL. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council, emphasizing



that the primary responsibility for ensuring the freedom of movement of UNIFIL lay with the Government of Lebanon. Council members said that, although UNIFIL had prevented large-scale violations of the ceasefire along the Blue Line, some incidents had caused concern. They deplored attacks against peacekeepers and called upon the Lebanese authorities to bring those responsible to justice. They also urged Israel to withdraw from northern Ghajar and respect the sovereignty of Lebanon. The need to fully implement resolution 1701 (2006) was stressed, including the need to disarm armed groups outside the control of the Government of Lebanon. All members supported extending the UNIFIL mandate by one year.

On 30 August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2004 (2011), by which it decided to extend the mandate of UNIFIL until 31 August 2012. The representative of Israel, welcoming the adoption of the resolution, stressed that more efforts were needed for full implementation of the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006), including with regard to disarming and disbanding Hizbullah and other militias. The representative of Lebanon reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), thanked UNIFIL and troop-contributing countries and criticized the disproportionate use of force by Israel against unarmed demonstrators and the continuous violations by Israel of Lebanese airspace and sovereignty and called for their immediate cessation.

## **Iraq**

On 18 August, the members of the Security Council issued a statement to the press condemning in the strongest terms the series of terrorist attacks carried out in Iraq on 15 August. They underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of those reprehensible acts to justice and reiterated that no terrorist act could reverse the path towards peace, democracy and reconstruction in Iraq.

## **Asia**

### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

On 23 August, the Acting Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) presented his 90-day report to the Council on the work of the Committee. The Council members voiced support for the full implementation of resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009) and supported the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. There was no consensus on the publication of the final report of the panel of experts.

## **Europe**

### **United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo**

On 30 August, the Council held a debate on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, during which the Acting Head of the Mission, Farid Zarif, said that the recent troubles in northern Kosovo must be a wake-up call for all and that rebuilding trust and promoting inter-community cooperation and understanding could not be postponed further. He added that both sides must refrain from actions leading to an escalation of tensions and demonstrate confidence in their European Union-mediated dialogue. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić, reaffirmed his country's rejection of the unilateral declaration of

independence of Kosovo and urged the Council to send a clear message that unilateral actions were unacceptable. Enver Hoxhaj of Kosovo said that the independence of Kosovo was a non-negotiable fact and that the institutions of Kosovo were open to all those seeking political change through institutional means, including to Kosovo Serb politicians in northern Kosovo.

In the ensuing debate, Council members urged officials in Pristina and Belgrade to continue their dialogue in good faith. Some members said that Kosovo was an independent country and had the right to exercise State authority throughout its territory. Other members referred to Council resolution 1244 (2009) as the binding international legal basis for the Kosovo settlement and, in that context, reconfirmed their view of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia. All Council members called for the resolution of various issues through direct negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina, and the avoidance of unilateral actions. Some members expressed regret that the Council had not been able to agree on an outcome document on Kosovo.

### **Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs**

On 9 August, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Yemen, Jamal Benomar, briefed the Council on the situation in Yemen, which he had visited from 20 to 30 July. The Special Adviser said that he had facilitated the first direct, face-to-face contact among the Yemeni parties on the resolution of the crisis facing the country. The parties had agreed, in principle, to work on the initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and effect a political transition aimed at restoring security in the country. Council members urged all sides in Yemen to reject violence and show maximum restraint. They called on the Yemeni parties to move forward, on an urgent basis, an inclusive, orderly and Yemeni-led process of political transition that would meet the needs and aspirations of the Yemeni people for change. They also welcomed the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General through the Special Adviser and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Security Council also issued a statement to the press reflecting the views expressed by its members.

On 23 August, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the situation in Nepal. Council members said that, while progress in Nepal had been slow, it had been steady. It was necessary to ensure that the peace process in Nepal remained Nepali-owned and that any assistance provided by the international community should support the efforts of the Government of Nepal. Some Council members said that under the current circumstances, there was no need for an enhanced involvement of the United Nations in Nepal.

Also on 23 August, the Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council on piracy off the western coast of Africa. He said that the problem, although underreported in the media, was growing and could become a serious threat to maritime security. He added that the United Nations would send an assessment mission to the region in November and a report would be submitted. The Council members said that the political stability and socio-economic development of the region were important to deal with piracy, as well as with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking and extremism. The members urged the United Nations offices in West and Central Africa and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to cooperate with the concerned countries to deal with the problem.

On 30 August, the Council issued a statement to the press on piracy and maritime armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. Council members expressed concern about the increase in piracy, maritime armed robbery and reports of hostage-taking

in the Gulf of Guinea and the damaging impact of such activity on security, trade and economic activities in the subregion. Recognizing the leadership role played on this issue by bodies and States in the region, the members called on the international community to support the countries concerned, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and other relevant organizations in securing navigation in the Gulf of Guinea. They noted the intention of the Secretary-General to deploy a United Nations assessment mission to examine the situation and explore possible options for United Nations support. They stressed the need for the United Nations Office for West Africa and UNOCA to work, within their current mandates, with UNODC and the International Maritime Organization, as well as with all countries and regional organizations concerned.

## **Thematic issue**

### **United Nations peacekeeping operations**

On 26 August, the Security Council held an open debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Council was addressed by the Secretary-General. Representatives of 47 Member States and accredited organizations made statements. The Council committed itself to strengthening its partnership with countries contributing military and police contingents to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Council also adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/17), in which it stressed the need to improve communications between itself, troop- and police-contributing countries, the United Nations Secretariat and other stakeholders so as to foster a spirit of partnership, cooperation, confidence and mutual trust and to ensure that the Council has the benefit of the views of those serving in the field when making its decisions about peacekeeping mandates. In that context, the Council requested the Secretariat to make its meetings with personnel-contributing countries more predictable by issuing invitations for the following month's consultations by the fifteenth day of each month. In addition, the Council intended to improve its access to military advice, including from troop-contributing countries. Recognizing the value of the annual briefings by the heads of military components, the Council said it would also welcome similar briefings by the heads of police components in order to improve its understanding of operational challenges.

Recognizing the need to provide adequate resources for the fulfilment of mission mandates, the Council requested the Secretary-General to include in his briefings on specific missions a realistic assessment of current capabilities and logistical planning and how they affect the implementation of various mandate elements. It stressed the importance of the role of peacekeepers in promoting political processes and in early peacebuilding efforts, recognizing the need to integrate mission expertise into the development of peacebuilding strategies.

As prioritized in the concept paper provided by the Presidency, the Council reaffirmed that respect for fundamental peacekeeping principles, including consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and the defence of a mandate authorized by the Council, was essential to the success of peacekeeping operations.