United Nations S/PV.7619

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7619th meeting
Wednesday, 10 February 2016, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ramírez Carreño	(Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of))
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Okamura
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Sene
	Spain	Mr. Gutiérrez Blanco Navarrete
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

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16-03362 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2016/123, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 2265 (2016).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation voted in favour of resolution 2265 (2016), guided by its main objective to promote a political settlement in Darfur. In particular, we continue to consider targeted limitations as an important tool for bringing pressure to bear on rebels who refuse to join the talks on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. If it were not for the duplicitous positions held by some Security Council members, the sanctions mechanism could be used more effectively. We have been raising this issue for many years, but honestly nothing can be done.

Instead, we would like to express our serious concern over the working methods used in putting the draft before the Council by the delegation of the United States, which abused its power as penholder and most inconsiderately inserted its own national priorities into the document. Under the pretext of the good intention of establishing peace in Darfur and by arbitrarily interpreting the recommendations of the sanctions experts, the sponsors sought to increase the pressure on Khartoum by depriving it of one of its largest sources of income. At the same time, they also ignored the positions of other delegations.

Those tactics undermined the unity of the Council. Consequently, the United States delegation was forced to proceed with a strictly technical extension of the sanctions resolution and put the text to the vote. The document does not include important language suggested by the Russian delegation, among others, condemning the violations of the arms embargo by illegal armed groups, the recruitment of rebel child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers and a call for a full — not a selective — implementation of the Doha Document. The responsibility for those omissions lies entirely with the American side.

We hope that this situation will serve as an important lesson for the United States representative and that, in the future, when drafting resolutions and other Security Council documents, the United States delegation will demonstrate a more reasonable and constructive approach.

Ms. Power (United States of America): We welcome resolution 2265 (2016) to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1591 (2005).

Following a brief period of relative calm, the past few weeks have been marked by aerial bombardments and ground offensives carried out by the Government of the Sudan in Jebel Mara. The United Nations has reported tens of thousands of civilians displaced and dire humanitarian conditions, yet, the Security Council has been silent.

We have had a sanctions regime in place for 12 years and yet we have not been able to muster consensus on a single designation since 2006. We have had an arms embargo in place for 11 years and year after year we receive report after report of arms flowing illegally into Darfur. We have created a Panel of Experts to provide this kind of reporting, and yet when it does a member

of the Council blocks the report from being published because its findings are so disturbing.

Today's resolution is a technical roll-over, not because the Panel of Experts did not provide findings on how to respond better to the situation. Indeed, the Panel has provided a critical flow of information on the implementation of sanctions in Darfur. Its report provided information that could have better informed our decision-making. For example, the report catalogued numerous violations of the sanctions regime, underscoring the need for greater enforcement by all Member States. It also took note of recurring violations of humanitarian and human rights law. Yes, today's resolution is a technical roll-over because the Council could not agree on even modest attempts to address in the resolution this information on worrying developments in the Darfur region.

We are particularly concerned that the Council was unable to address the role of illicit trafficking in natural resources in fuelling conflict. The nexus between gold trafficking and armed groups, as outlined by the Panel of Experts, is very well known. The Council has addressed without controversy the role of gold and natural resources in other conflicts, such as those in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and even terrorism perpetrated by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Today, the Council should have built upon the excellent international and regional initiatives under way in this field to tackle this problem in the Sudan context, but because of the Panel's reporting on this issue a Panel's report may never become public, and that is extremely concerning. We urge the Council and those who value the integrity and transparency of the work of the Security Council and its Committees to allow for this report to be published as soon as possible. Some of the same Council members who speak in certain contexts of the need, in theory, for transparency in sanctions regimes — including in a forthcoming meeting of the Council — now seek to block publication of information related to a real sanctions regime in practice because they do not like its findings. We cannot make judgements about what should be transparent and what should not be on the basis of whether the information is convenient or inconvenient.

Finally, allow me to reiterate that, as penholder of this annual renewal, we take seriously our responsibility to consider the Panel's findings and recommendations, and also the views of all members of the Council. Some of those views could not be reconciled with the facts, including the facts presented in the Panel of Experts' report that is being blocked from publication. We look forward to continuing our discussion with colleagues on how best to increase transparency, reinforce compliance with Security Council resolutions, and respond to the findings of the Panel. Truly addressing the issues facing Darfur will require the Council to speak with one voice and to take meaningful steps to help advance peace.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voted in favour of resolution 2265 (2016), renewing for one year the mandate of the Panel of Experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, because we are convinced of the need to preserve the unity of the Security Council in addressing this important issue, and because the Council plays a positive role in promoting a negotiated political solution to the prolonged conflict in that kindred African country, especially in the Darfur region. We believe that the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur creates a framework that should serve as the basis for negotiations among the parties to the conflict, complemented by such initiatives as the national dialogue convened by the Government in Khartoum and the internal consultations in Darfur. We also believe that the efforts made by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, led by former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and the Joint Chief Mediator, are essential to ending the conflict.

With regard to the working methods of the Security Council with respect to the sanctions committees, Venezuela also has serious reservations concerning the functioning of the committees. Tomorrow, when we shall hold a debate on working methods, we will express our opinions on this subject, but I wish to explain that our main observation about the document initially proposed by the penholder on this subject concerns the sovereign right of countries to manage their own natural resources. We wish to invoke and stress the validity of General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 1962, in which the United Nations recognized the sovereign right of countries to manage their natural resources.

Like many other developing countries, my country is a major producer of natural resources, which are a

fundamental factor in maintaining the stability of our economy. We believe that the Security Council — much less a sanctions committee — should have no say whatsoever in the ability of countries to enjoy their right to profit from the management of their own natural resources, which we hope will always be to the benefit of their peoples.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your country's accession to the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I am pleased to see your friendly country represented in the Council, which is entrusted by the Charter of the United Nations with the weighty task of maintaining international peace and security. I also congratulate the new members that joined the Council at the beginning of the year.

On 23 November 2015, along with representatives of the neighbouring States Egypt, Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Libya and Uganda, the Sudan participated in the 7th meeting of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan. On 18 December 2015, I received the members of the Panel of Experts at the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations, where opinions were exchanged and positive and constructive discussions took place. The members of the Panel expressed their satisfaction at the cooperation demonstrated by the Government of the Sudan with the Committee and the Panel. For instance, the coordinator of the Panel of Experts told me that "the cooperation of the Sudan was excellent". The Panel was not prevented from reaching the sites where incidents had occurred, except in two cases. The cooperation of the Mission of the Sudan was equally thorough.

What concerns us in that respect is the fact that neither these exchanges of opinion nor developments on the ground are referred to in the numerous resolutions adopted by the Council, including resolution 2265 (2016). Furthermore, it is quite clear that the many resolutions of the Security Council on this topic tend to hold the Government of the Sudan responsible for the terrorist and criminal activities of maverick armed groups, and that rather than condemn these rebels, these resolutions repeatedly call on the Government of the Sudan to arrest and prosecute them. Taking into consideration our conviction in the need to bring every criminal to justice, the Council must take the most forceful measures to persuade these armed groups to lay down their weapons and accede without delay to the peace process taking root in Darfur.

The same applies to the attempts of these groups to find ways to obtain the financing and weapons they use to attack the United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur. The importance of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in defining the dividing line is fundamental and has produced good results with the cooperation of the Sudan's neighbours, the League of Arab States and Qatar. We believe firmly that any disregard of the Document contravenes the Charter of the United Nations and is a clear incitement to continued conflict and bloodshed.

Whether or not the conflict ends in a peace agreement, we are confident that the members of the Security Council will make the maintenance of peace and security their top priority. We reiterate our commitment to cooperating with the Panel of Experts in implementing today's resolution while dealing with the pros and cons that have given rise to the multiplicity of bodies involved. We remind the Council of the following strictures that we have asked the Panel of Experts to observe.

The first is that the Panel should not bypass the mandate specified by the Council under resolution 1591 (2005), and the second is that it should keep to the time frame when investigating the inquiries into the various bodies involved. It should observe the requirement of giving prior notification to the Government authorities and alerting it to the Panel's movements, in order to avoid any objections. We must be aware of the movements of the Panel when it is in Darfur. The Panel should not rely for its information on organizations that have no internationally recognized legal status or those with specific political agendas. There is no need to seek information about the Sudanese Government from any source other than the Government itself, and we must have sufficient time to comply. The General Assembly has urged Member States to avoid consulting partisan and unverifiable information sources in their adoption of resolutions and measures. We in the Sudan, as well as the members of the Council, have seen how tendentious information on the Sudan and on other events in other countries in the Middle East has led to the loss of innocent civilian lives.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.