



SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT UPDATE REPORT



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SECURITY COUNCIL SUMMIT ON AFRICA

Expected Council Action

As Council president this month, France will be convening a summit-level meeting on Africa on 25 September. French President Nicolas Sarkozy will be presiding over the meeting. The President of Ghana, current Chair of the African Union, will also participate. Similar high-level participation by many of the other Security Council members is anticipated, especially in view of the fact that this debate in the Council appears to have been timed to coincide with the likely presence of high-level dignitaries during the General Assembly's General Debate. An outcome document is not envisaged at the end of the Council's deliberations on 25 September. The purpose is rather to take stock, in a wide ranging conversation, of the situation in Africa.

Background

On 12 September, France circulated a concept paper on Africa and the challenges to international peace and security. The paper focused on the need for the international community to further support the efforts being made by Africans to attain peace and stability on the continent. It suggested ongoing challenges in the following areas:

- effective consolidation of peace to prevent relapse into conflict in areas recently emerging out of violent strife (West Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), through enhancing the rule of law, security sector reform and mobilisation of long-term donor support;
- bringing closure to ongoing conflicts, and their associated political, security and humanitarian crises (Darfur, Chad, Central African Republic and Somalia); and
- linkages to global threats, including environmental challenges, drugs and arms trafficking, illegal exploitation of natural resources, mercenarism, terrorism, as well as unmonitored migration and cross-border movement of armed groups that dovetail into the fuelling of conflicts in Africa.

The paper also raised for discussion the need for these challenges to be dealt with along the following lines:

- consistent efforts by the international community through better utilisation of instruments at the disposal of the UN (the identified mechanisms included peacekeeping operations, the Council's sanctions measures, protection of civilians and vulnerable populations in conflict situations);
- promotion of effective partnership between the UN and Africa, based on African regional organisations, especially in strengthening African crisis management and resolution as well as in meeting its peacekeeping needs, supporting post-conflict recovery efforts and establishing more operational crisis prevention mechanisms; and
- involvement of non-African mechanisms including wider regional organisations, individual states, civil society, private companies and NGOs to complement the efforts of the UN and Africa.

Council Dynamics

President Sarkozy has indicated that Africa “will remain a crucial foreign policy priority” for his country as well “a central focus of the European Union’s cooperation policy.” To further mobilise the international community to address the challenges of peace and security on the continent the convening of the upcoming meeting of the Council at the level of heads of states and government was initiated to refocus attention on the international peace and security issues confronting the continent.

Other members of the Council appear to be generally agreed on the value of the debate, especially if it can help promote ways of tackling the myriad challenges posed to security on the African continent which occupy much of its agenda.

African members of the Council have initially taken the lead on the need to support and utilise, as far as possible, regional mechanisms in dealing with conflicts in Africa and this approach has attracted wider support in recent months, especially in practical terms regarding the hybrid UN/AU operation for Darfur.

For many members an important issue regarding the debate is its duration. Due to constraints of time stemming mainly from other competing engagements associated with participation of high-level dignitaries in activities of the General Debate of the General Assembly, participation in the meeting will be restricted to only Council members, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Alpha Konare. Much of the wider membership of the UN is likely to be present at the meeting as observers. The duration of the summit is not expected to exceed one and a half hours.

Key Facts

This summit represents yet another high profile initiative by the Council aimed at focusing on the challenges facing Africa, a continent whose issues continue to occupy much of the agenda of the Council. The Council held its first ever ministerial-level meeting on Africa intended to highlight the challenges facing the continent and to develop a basis for political and economic success on the continent in September 1997, with the US presiding (S/PV.3819). The presidential statement that resulted from the meeting called on the Secretary-General to prepare a report that generated recommendations for a “comprehensive response” to the challenges in Africa (S/PRST/1997/46). This spawned two reports from the Secretary General—*The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa* in April 1998(S/1998/318) and *Prevention of armed conflict* in June 2001(A/55/985)—and a series of resolutions and presidential statements on conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding between 1998 and 2001.

The Council held another meeting devoted exclusively to the continent on 31 January 2002 with Mauritius presiding (S/PV.4465). It culminated in a presidential statement highlighting the following elements regarding conflict prevention and resolution in Africa (S/PRST/2002/2):

- the importance of enhancing cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organisations in Africa;
- the value of more effective cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to address humanitarian crises that lead to conflict;
- the need for the international community to step up its efforts to fight HIV/AIDS and strengthen programmes that assist refugees and facilitate disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR); and
- that the Council consider setting up a working group to monitor the above recommendations (this was subsequently realised with the setting up of Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa in March 2002).

Under Benin's chairmanship of the Working Group in 2005, the Council held a summit meeting at which resolution 1625 was adopted unanimously by heads of state and government who had gathered at the UN for the September 2005 World Summit. The resolution provided a context for future efforts in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. Benin had previously conducted a policy forum on 13 June 2005, entitled "Enhancing the UN's Capacity for Conflict Prevention: The Role of the Security Council." Among the conclusions reached at this event, which influenced the elements of resolution 1625, was the view that coordination among UN agencies and cooperation between the UN and regional organisations could be improved.

As a follow-up to 1625, during the presidency of Congo in August this year, an open debate was held on the issue of conflict prevention in Africa. A presidential statement issued at the end of the meeting, among other things, anticipated a related seminar that is expected to be held in November and requested the Secretary-General to provide the Council with a report on options for further implementation of resolution 1625 within sixty days. It welcomed the June agreement between the Security Council and the AU's Peace and Security Council which emphasised the need for African subregional entities to strengthen their capacities in early warning and conflict prevention to respond more promptly to the emerging threats to security in their areas.

The Council has also undertaken a number of missions to the continent, the latest being from 14 to 21 June. During the mission, representatives of the Council visited five countries. Visits to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and Accra in Ghana focused on developing strategies for enhancing cooperation between the UN and regional organisations, especially the AU. The three remaining countries visited were areas of conflict (the DRC, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan). Other Council missions to Africa in previous years have been:

Security Council Missions to Africa (1992-2006)

Year	Regions/Countries Visited
2006	DRC, Sudan, Chad
2005	Ethiopia and Eritrea, DRC, Uganda, Tanzania
2004	Central Africa region (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda) and the West Africa region (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria)
2003	West Africa region (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Nigeria) and the Central Africa region (Angola, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania).
2002	Great Lakes region (Angola, Burundi, DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe) and Ethiopia and Eritrea
2001	Angola, Burundi, DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia
2000	DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone
1995	Burundi, Rwanda, Western Sahara
1994	Burundi, Mozambique
1992	Angola

Underlying Problems

Underlying problems include timely prevention and resolution of conflicts on the continent, as well as effective consolidation of peace including: security sector reform; good democratic governance; transitional justice and rule of law; DDR; peacebuilding; sustainable development; humanitarian assistance; and return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Also, there are the problems of ensuring enhanced coherence of international efforts and resources in adequate funding, sustained political will and commitment by the international community, as well as the need to come up with innovative strategies or policies to effectively tackle the challenges posed to peace and security in Africa.

UN Documents

Selected Security Council Resolutions

- S/RES/1631 (17 October 2005) addressed the issue of cooperation between the UN and regional organisations.
- S/RES/1625 (14 September 2005) was a heads of state government-level declaration adopted during the World Summit on the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa.
- S/RES/1318 (7 September 2000) was the adoption of the Millennium Summit declaration on ensuring an effective role for the Council in maintaining peace and security, especially in Africa.
- S/RES/1209 (19 November 1998) recognised the threat of illicit flow of arms to and in Africa to international peace and security.
- S/RES/1197 (18 September 1998) concerned the strengthening of coordination between the UN and regional and subregional organisations in conflict prevention and the maintenance of peace.
- S/RES/1196 (16 September 1998) urged members, relevant UN bodies and agencies, and other international agencies to facilitate implementation of arms embargoes.

Selected Presidential Statements

- S/PRST/2007/31 (28 August 2007) on the maintenance of international peace and security through peaceful means, particularly in Africa.
- S/PRST/2007/22 (25 June 2007) regarded threats to international peace and security.
- S/PRST/2007/1 (8 January 2007) focused on threats to international peace and security.
- S/PRST/2002/2 (31 January 2002) made recommendations for achieving conflict prevention and resolution in Africa and noted that the Council would consider establishing a working group to monitor these recommendations.
- S/PRST/2000/25 (20 July 2000) invited the Secretary-General to submit a report on the prevention of armed conflict.
- S/PRST/1999/34 (30 November 1999) recognised the importance of building a culture to prevent armed conflict and the need for a contribution from all principal UN organs to achieve this goal.
- S/PRST/1998/28 (16 September 1998) focused on enhancing Africa's peacekeeping capacity and highlighted the problem of children and armed conflict.
- S/PRST/1997/46 (25 September 1997) noted that addressing the challenges of conflict in Africa required a comprehensive approach and called on the Secretary-General to produce a report to address the issue.

Selected Security Council Debates

- S/PV.5705 and resumption 1 (25 June 2007) focused on the maintenance of international peace and security.
- S/PV.5649 and resumption 1 (28 March 2007) discussed the relationship between the UN and regional organisations.
- S/PV.5369 (27 January 2006) focused on the situation in the Great Lakes region.
- S/PV.5156 (30 March 2005) was a wrap-up session of the Council's work for the month with the discussion focusing on Africa.
- S/PV.4766 (30 May 2003) was a wrap-up discussion on the Council's monthly activities that dealt with conflicts in Africa.
- S/PV.4538 (22 May 2002) dealt with the situation in Africa and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.
- S/PV.4465 (31 January 2002) dealt with the situation in Africa.
- S/PV.3819 (25 September 1997) was the first ministerial-level debate on the situation in Africa.

Reports of Missions of the Security Council

- S/2007/421 (11 July 2007) was the report of the Security Council mission to Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Accra, Abidjan and Kinshasa, 14 to 21 June 2007.
- S/2006/434 (22 June 2006) the report of the Security Council mission on the electoral process in the DRC, 10 to 12 June 2006.
- S/2006/433 (22 June 2006) was the report of the Security Council mission to the Sudan and Chad, 4 to 10 June 2006.
- S/2005/723 (17 November 2005) was the report on the visit to Ethiopia and Eritrea by the Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations.
- S/2004/934 (30 November 2004) was the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, 21 to 25 November 2004.
- S/2004/525 (2 July 2004) was the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, 20 to 29 June 2004.
- S/2003/653 (17 June 2003) was the report of the Security Council mission to Central Africa, 7 to 16 June 2003.
- S/2002/537 (13 May 2002) and addendum 1 (14 May 2002) was the report of the Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region, 27 April to 7 May 2002.
- S/2002/205 (27 February, 2002) was the report of the Security Council mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea, 21 to 25 February 2002.
- S/2001/521 (28 May 2001) and addendum 1 (30 May 2001) was the report of the Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region, 15 to 26 2001.
- S/2000/992 (16 October 2000) was the report of the Security Council mission to Sierra Leone, 7 to 14 October 2000.
- S/2000/416 (11 May 2000) was the report of the Security Council mission to DRC, 4 to 8 May 2000.
- S/1995/498 (21 June 1995) was the report of the Security Council mission to Western Sahara, 3 to 9 June 1995.
- S/1995/164 (28 February 1995) was the report Security Council mission Rwanda, 12 to 13 February 1995.
- S/1995/163 (28 February 1995) was the report of the Security Council mission to Burundi, 10 to 11 February 1995.
- S/1994/1245 (3 November 1994) was the report of the Security Council mission to Somalia, 26 to 27 October 1994.
- S/1994/1039 (9 September 1994) was the report the Security Council mission to Burundi, 13 to 14 August 1994.
- S/24683 (20 October 1992) was a note by the president of the Security Council on the mission of the Council to Angola, 11 to 14 October 1992 (oral report).

Other

- S/2007/347 (11 June 2007) was a letter from the president of the Security Council to the Secretary-General on the Council's decision to send a mission to Africa.
- S/2005/828 (22 December 2005) was the report on a seminar held by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa on cooperation between the United Nations and African regional organisations in the field of peace and security.

Useful Additional Resources

- Security Council Report, Update Report on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, 24 August 2007
- Security Council Report, Update Report on UN and Regional Organisations, 23 March 2007
- Speech of Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, XVth Ambassador's Conference, 27 August 2007