

# 2016 Annual Report

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## Letter from the Executive Director

In a year when a politically divided Security Council again struggled in fulfilling its responsibility to address effectively the multiple crises on its agenda, it found unity in an October decision which the late Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin called “maybe the best success of the Council in the past five years”: to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of António Guterres as the ninth UN Secretary-General. Security Council Report built on its early analyses in 2006 of the evolution of the selection process to follow developments throughout 2016 and explain them to its readers. We elucidated the history of such little-known aspects as the Council’s use of straw polls, and reported the internal debates of Council members as they considered how to respond to the demands of the General Assembly and civil society for a more open process. In doing so, SCR achieved a record readership for its research reports and What’s in Blue stories, and further recognition of its unique service to the UN community in New York and far beyond.

Only the one formal meeting to finalise its decision on the Secretary-General recommendation features in the year’s statistics, and not the Council’s six straw polls and many informal discussions, including with all thirteen candidates. Even without them, these showed the second highest number of formal meetings in over 20 years and a continuing high level of informal consultations.

The difficulty in overcoming divisions and reaching consensus was reflected in the greatest number of non-consensual resolutions in the post-Cold War period, as well as two vetoes – the fifth and sixth on Syria resolutions – and two resolutions not adopted due to lack of nine votes. Some of the negative votes and abstentions were expressions of disapproval with the conduct of negotiations, and the frustration of elected members continued to grow during the year. It found expression in increasing meetings of the E10 among themselves, and in their initiatives in drafting resolutions and leading on new issues which made some inroads into the penholder system. As ever, SCR explained these Council dynamics in its Monthly Forecast and What’s in Blue stories.

In 2016, the Council undertook five visiting missions, the most since 2000. SCR accompanied each of them, and its Dispatches from the Field reported them in real time as well as constituting a record of this Council activity.

Elections to the Council were for the first time conducted in June instead of September, affording new members a longer time to prepare for their term. The struggle of elected members to be effective in only a two-year term was not helped by the splitting of the 2017-18 term between Italy and the Netherlands when they were tied in the vote after five ballots – the first split term since the non-permanent membership of the Council was enlarged in the 1960s. Seven of the ten elected members serving in 2016 had participated in SCR’s customised capacity development sessions, as did all those joining the Council at the beginning of 2017. SCR also convened an increasing number of roundtable discussions on Council issues, as well as its regular monthly briefings.

The year ended with Council divisions at their most acute, with angry exchanges over Syria as civilians suffered the consequences of the battle for Aleppo. Meanwhile missions struggled in South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic, and the Council had little to do or say about Yemen’s slide into ever-deeper humanitarian crisis. Thanks to the persistence of some elected members and the abstention of the Obama administration, in late December the Council adopted a resolution demanding the cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory. It remained to be seen what might be the impact on Council effectiveness of a new Secretary-General and a new US administration.

The testimonies in this report, as well as the continuing growth in readership, suggest that the role of Security Council Report is increasingly valued by those who see the importance of the Council and care about its effectiveness. We remain grateful for all the financial contributions which enable a small, highly productive team to seek to promote the common good of international peace and security.

Ian Martin  
*Executive Director*

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## SCR Mission Statement

SCR's mission is to advance the transparency and effectiveness of the UN Security Council. We seek to achieve this by making available timely, balanced, high-quality information about the activities of the Council and its subsidiary bodies; by convening

stakeholders to deepen the analysis of issues before the Council and its working methods and performance; by encouraging engagement of the Council with all member states and civil society; and by developing capacity on Council practice and procedure through

assisting incoming members and other training and assistance programmes. SCR is independent and impartial; it advocates transparency but does not take positions on the issues before the Council.

## 2016 Highlights

### Output

- 12 Monthly Forecasts on the prospective monthly programme of work of the Security Council
- 249 What's-in-Blue stories providing day-to-day coverage of developments in the Security Council
- Five Research Reports on key issues confronting the Security Council

### Situations and Issues Covered

- Africa: Burundi, Central Africa/LRA-affected areas, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Great Lakes Region, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Sahel, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, West Africa (incl. Boko Haram-affected areas, the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel) and Western Sahara
- Asia: Afghanistan, Central Asia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar
- Europe: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Kosovo and Ukraine
- Middle East: Egypt, Golan Heights (Israel-Syria), Iran, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen
- Latin America: Colombia, Haiti

*Security Council Report has been an invaluable resource to our Mission - when we were preparing for being on the Council, while we were on the Council, and now we are off it again. Security Council Report is excellent in explaining the context to the issues before the Council and can be relied upon to provide accurate information and informed commentary about how the Council is likely to deal with those issues. SCR also organises first rate seminars on evolving Council practice. - Ambassador Gerard Van Bohemen, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the UN*

Ad-hoc Criminal Tribunals; Non-Proliferation; Peacebuilding; Peace Operations; Piracy; Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict; Rule of Law; Sanctions; Security Council Elections; Security Council Working Methods; Sexual Violence in Conflict; Terrorism; Water, Peace and Security; and Women, Peace and Security

### Outreach Events

- 33 briefings on the work of the Security Council for UN member states, UN entities, and human rights and humanitarian NGOs

Council and conflict prevention

- Roundtable discussion on the relationship between the Security Council and the International Court of Justice
- Policy Forum (with International Peace Institute) on Impact of Climate Change in International Peace and Security: The Case of Small Island States
- Two workshops (with International Peace Institute and Stimson Centre) on applying the recommendations of the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to peace operations in Mali and Libya

### Capacity Development

- Eight sessions totalling 18 days of training for officials and diplomats from six countries
- One information session for journalists

### Readership

- 10,300 e-mail subscribers as of 31 December 2016
- 500 print subscribers
- 400,000 website users and more than 1.4 million page views on [www.securitycouncilreport.org](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org) and [www.whatsinblue.org](http://www.whatsinblue.org) combined, from across almost all UN member states.

*I read your very good reports on the Security Council fairly regularly and often make a mental note to say bravo and thank you to you! - Lakhdar Brahimi, member of The Elders*

- Thematic Issues: Appointment of the UN Secretary-General; Children and Armed Conflict; Climate Change; Conflict Prevention; Cooperation with Regional Organisations; Food Security; Human Rights; Human Trafficking; International

- Roundtable discussion launching the report on the Security Council and UN peace operations
- Roundtable discussion on the role of elected members of the Security Council
- Roundtable discussion on the Security

## Progress in Achieving Goals

Over the course of 2016, SCR continued to successfully implement our mission. Our publications are widely read by diplomats in New York, senior UN officials and UN secretariat staff, NGOs, academic institutions and the media, as well as by officials in capitals and UN staff and others working in the field. We expanded our overall readership, as measured by the number of digital subscribers and website traffic. In the 12-month period from 1 January through 31 December 2016, the number of digital subscribers grew by almost 12 percent, from 9,200 to 10,300. There was also a continued robust increase in website traffic. In 2016, SCR's main website ([www.securitycouncilreport.org](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org)) had some 290,100 users (up 16 percent from the previous year) and 1,060,000 page views (up 18 percent). The What's in Blue website ([www.whatsinblue.org](http://www.whatsinblue.org)) also saw an increase in readership, with 98,000 users in 2015 (up 8 percent) and 393,000 page views (up 15 percent). All in all, SCR's websites had some 400,000 unique visitors across almost all 193 UN member states, for a total of almost 1.4 million page views during 2016.

SCR's capacity development programme once again attracted strong interest from incoming elected Security Council members and candidate countries. Six countries participated in the programme in 2016: Ethiopia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Swe-

Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. Seven of the ten elected members serving on the Council in 2016 participated in the programme.

*Security Council Report provides vital information about the work of the Security Council, in the most objective and clear way possible. That is a huge service for all those who care about international peace and security. The quality of the product makes it required reading for all of us working at the UN.* - Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, Permanent Representative of the UK to the UN

den, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. As of 31 December 2016, SCR had provided capacity development courses to the following 19 countries since the launch of the programme in 2012: Angola, Chile, Ethiopia, Finland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan,

These positive trends in readership and participation in capacity development indicate that SCR is seen as a very valuable tool by our target audiences. Informal feedback received throughout the year also confirmed SCR's usefulness.

## Main Activities in 2016

### The Monthly Forecast and What's in Blue

Through our Monthly Forecast and What's in Blue publications, SCR provides continuous coverage of developments in the Security Council as part of our mission to promote transparency and enhance the effectiveness of the Council, while also creating an important portfolio of analytical publications that offer a comprehensive overview of the work of the Council and serve as an important institutional memory and capacity-building tool.

The Monthly Forecast, which is published both in hard copy and on SCR's main website, provides a prospective analysis of the upcoming monthly programme of work of the Security Council, with sections on recent developments, pertinent human rights-related information, key issues, potential options and dynamics within the Council. It also regularly includes an additional feature entitled "In Hindsight" which, as the title suggests, instead of looking forward to expected Council action in the month ahead, analyses a recent Council decision or developments

in a specific area over the years, with a view to assessing the performance of the Council.

What's in Blue (WiB) is an online-only publication that provides analysis of the latest developments in the Security Council on a day-to-day basis. (The name refers to the final stage of the negotiations of a Council resolution when the text is printed in blue.) It offers insights on upcoming meetings, draft resolutions and status of negotiations, as well as on the activities of subsidiary Council bodies such as sanctions committees and working groups.

WiB has its own website ([www.whatsinblue.org](http://www.whatsinblue.org)), but can also be accessed through SCR's main site ([www.securitycouncilreport.org](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org)).

As before, SCR's activities in 2016 were driven by developments in the Security Council as we continued to focus on providing high-quality, unbiased and timely coverage, with total output reflecting the fact that the Council had one of its busiest years in the post-Cold War period. The Council adopted 96 decisions (resolutions and presidential statements), the most since 2008. The

*From deep in the field, mission leadership needs to follow trends and developments in the Security Council. SCR makes this possible, especially through What's in Blue and the regular thematic reports—always insightful, frank and succinct.* - Karin Landgren, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General



## Main Activities in 2016

number of resolutions (77) was the highest since 1993. The number of press statements fell from 128 in 2015 to 106 last year, a significant drop, but still a high number compared to just a few years ago. The number of Council meetings was also very high. With a total of 256 meetings—237 public and 19 private—the Council held the second highest number of formal meetings in over 20 years.

In terms of the issues considered by the Security Council, Burundi, South Sudan, Syria, Western Sahara and Yemen required sustained attention. The crisis in Syria was once again the situation which received the most SCR coverage, with 12 Monthly Forecast briefs and 30 WiB stories. This was similar to our 2015 output. We continued to report on the three main tracks pursued by the Council—the humanitarian, political and chemical weapons tracks—providing detailed and continuing coverage of the positions of Council members and offering possible options for Council action. In the case of Yemen, which also remained high on the Council's agenda, SCR produced seven Monthly Forecast briefs and 12 WiB stories, a slight decrease from last year's output on this issue. In addition to reporting on the stalled peace process and the humanitarian crisis, we

also covered sanctions-related developments, including the activities of the 2140 Yemen Sanctions Committee.

SCR significantly increased its coverage of South Sudan in response to the rapid deterioration in the situation over the course of 2016, which led to increased Council attention and more meetings to discuss the crisis. We kept our readers up-to-date by following closely new developments in the Council. In total, SCR produced ten Monthly Forecast briefs and 25 WiB stories on South Sudan in 2016, up from five briefs and 16 WiB stories in 2015. SCR continued to provide extensive coverage of other situations in Africa, including Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya and Mali.

One new situation, Colombia, was added to the Council's agenda, following the adoption of a resolution in January 2016 establishing

a political mission of unarmed international observers. The decision was made in response to a joint request from the government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in anticipation of the signing of a peace agreement later in the year. SCR followed developments in the Council closely, publishing five WiB stories on Colombia in 2016, including on the Council's adoption of a further resolution on the UN mission.

In terms of other topics covered by SCR, terrorism continued to be a focus both in country-specific situations, such as Mali and Yemen, and from the perspective of the financing of terrorism. Non-proliferation featured prominently in the Council's work, both from the aspect of the dangers of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction, and in relation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as the Council significantly

*In the vast sea of United Nations acronyms, committees, and procedures, Security Council Report's "What's in Blue" helps me distill what matters. - Somini Sengupta, United Nations Bureau Chief, The New York Times*

# WHAT'S IN BLUE

Insights on the work of the UN Security Council



posted on WED 5 OCT 2016 5:30 PM

## Vote on a Resolution Recommending António Guterres as the Next Secretary-General

Following today's (5 October), colour-coded straw poll, in which António Guterres was the only candidate with more than nine "encourage" votes and received no red ballot as a "discourage" vote, which would indicate a possible veto in a formal vote, the Council will vote tomorrow morning in a closed meeting on a resolution recommending Guterres as the

# Main Activities in 2016

strengthened the sanctions regime on the country in response to the two nuclear tests and multiple missile launches conducted in 2016. As a result, SCR increased its coverage of the DPRK, publishing six Monthly Forecast briefs and six WiB stories.

A special aspect of the Council's work in 2016 was the time spent on the Secretary-General selection process. Although not reflected in the general statistics due to the informal nature of the meetings, Council members discussed this issue regularly during the monthly breakfast meeting of permanent representatives and under "any other business" in consultations. They held six straw polls and one formal meeting, as well as 13

informal meetings with candidates. SCR followed these discussions closely, with two Monthly Forecast briefs, seven WiB stories and two In Hindsight pieces: one explaining the voting process for selecting the Secretary-General, and another drawing attention to the significant changes introduced in the latest selection process as a result of active involvement of civil society and members of the General Assembly in insisting on greater transparency and a more clearly defined selection process. This allowed non-permanent Council members and the wider UN membership to play significant roles in the process. In addition, SCR published a longer in-depth research report on the selection

process, which is described below.

Another notable aspect of Council activities in 2016 that was reflected in SCR's work, was the high number of Council visiting missions, which provided opportunities for Council members to engage directly with stakeholders in complex political situations, as well as with regional actors. The Council undertook five such visiting missions, the most since 2000, travelling to Burundi, with a visit to the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (January); Mali and Guinea-Bissau, with a visit to the UNOWAS office in Dakar, Senegal (March); Somalia, with stops in Nairobi, Kenya and Cairo, Egypt, to visit the Arab League (May); South Sudan, with a visit to the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa (September); and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a stop in Luanda, Angola (November). SCR was able to provide extensive coverage of all of these missions, publishing a total number of 23 WiB stories, most of them dispatches from the field written by SCR staff members accompanying the mission delegations.

SCR continued to track the Council's so-called Arria-formula meetings, which are informal gatherings convened at the initiative of a member or members of the Council in order to receive information from individuals or organisations with knowledge of developments on the ground. Due to their informal nature, they do not appear on the Council's programme of work and are therefore difficult for non-Council members to follow. SCR published WiB stories on ten of the 12 Arria-formula meetings that were organised in 2016, providing information on the briefers and topics discussed. On our website, we have also been maintaining a regularly updated list of all Arria-formula meetings held since 1992, with information regarding the topics, the meetings' organisers, the briefers and the symbols of relevant documents.

## Research Publications

In addition to the regular day-to-day coverage of ongoing developments in the Security Council, SCR produces longer research reports aimed at providing more in-depth analysis of issues determined to be of particular interest to Council members or that SCR believes deserve greater Council attention. These reports typically provide a historical overview and assessment of previous Council involvement and suggest options for future work on the issue being discussed. When possible, the timing of the publication of these





## Main Activities in 2016

research reports is planned to ensure that they are available to Council members and others as a resource ahead of major Council debates and decisions. They also serve as a tool to track the actual performance of the Security Council in following through on thematic issues on its agenda and implementing previous commitments made. In 2016, SCR published five such reports.

### *Human Rights and the Security Council – An Evolving Role (25 January 2016)*

This was SCR's first thematic report on human rights. It examined the evolution of the Council's approach to this important issue and the relationship between the Security Council and the parts of the UN system specifically focused on human rights, in particular the Human Rights Council and its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights. One of the key objectives of the report was to assess the effectiveness of the UN's top political organ in making an impact on the ground, while also looking at the contribution of other UN actors in creating productive human rights synergies with the Security Council. In order to assess how far the potential of the Council for preventing or stopping massive human rights violations is realised and see what opportunities might lie ahead, the report included five case studies: El

today sees human rights as an important factor in the situations it is striving to address and as a part of the reality with which it needs to deal in its effort to maintain international peace and security. Most peace operations created or authorised by the Council now have various human rights tasks in their mandates, and most have substantive human rights capacities or components. In addition, the Council has used or developed an impressive range of tools—such as commissions of inquiry, judicial mechanisms, visiting missions or sanctions—to achieve goals with an impact on human rights in different parts of the world.

At the same time, the study noted that a close examination of Council decisions and action with regard to human rights suggested that its resort to the different tools and its follow-up had been uneven, and that a high proportion of human rights-related language in relevant resolutions was declaratory or hortative, rather than operative.

From examining the different case studies, the report concluded that meaningful human rights results on the ground in conflict situations were achieved when there was burden-sharing both within the Council and among the different parts of the UN, maximising all resources. Follow-up and a close focus, sometimes for years at a time, were needed to produce lasting human rights improvements.

be useful, as well as internal advocacy within the different parts of the UN with a view to achieving synergies and maximising the available resources and impact. In this context, it emphasised the importance of following up on the recommendations of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations which placed human rights squarely at the core of UN peace and security action and made several recommendations relevant to the Council's potential effectiveness in preventing or mitigating conflict-related human rights crises.

The report was presented at a launch event on 29 January 2016 hosted by the Permanent Mission of Germany in New York. It included a panel discussion with Ambassador François Delattre (France); Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; and Richard Bennett, Head of the UN office of Amnesty International. The report was also presented on 9 February at an event hosted by the Permanent Mission of Germany in Geneva with the participation of the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kate Gilmore.

### *The Security Council and Peace Operations – Reform and Deliver (5 May 2016)*

The 2015 reports by the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the UN Secretary-General put forward sets of recommendations for reforming how peace operations are carried out—many of them requiring a change of approach by the Security Council. This report therefore examined what the review would require of the Council, identifying how the Council's usual conduct of business often undermines the objectives it sets for itself, whether in preventing conflict or in designing realistic mandates for peace operations.

The report outlined how member states, including the Council, had until then responded to the recommendations of the peace operations review. It went on to look at the ways in which the Council could reinforce its role in preventing conflict and the challenges it faced in doing so, as a result of both its internal working methods and the interaction with the Secretariat. It also analysed the different forms of political engagement used by the Council when exerting its collective leverage, both to prevent conflict and in support of peace processes. The report then proceeded to examine the Council's mandating and oversight of operations, highlighting the case for sequenced and prioritised mandates, the importance of the quality

*The Security Council Report is valuable reference support for the delegations allowing them to have a broad understanding of the Council's dynamics. The thematic issues are of great use and the depth of the research helps the delegation to attune their positions without spending much needed time on the issue history. – Senior P5 Official*

Salvador, East Timor, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan and South Sudan. The five cases had been chosen to show different Council approaches to human rights and the respective differing impacts on the ground, as well as the role that addressing human rights had played in the Council's involvement in all of these conflict situations.

Overall, the report found that over the past quarter of a century or so, the Security Council had significantly changed its attitude to human rights. From largely keeping human rights outside its scope, the Security Council

Such long-term commitment was sometimes hard to maintain, especially when multiple crises competed for the Council's attention, and a sense of fatigue would set in when a conflict continued despite all the measures deployed.

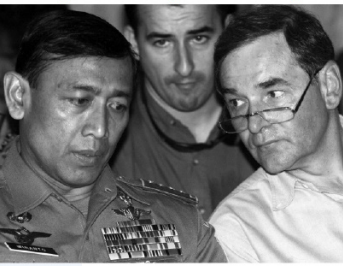
Finally, the report emphasised the importance of recognising that human rights improvements were never the success of just one actor and that different actors could reinforce each other's value-added. In particular, it suggested that advocacy from concerned member states in addition to civil society and across the different UN bodies might

# Main Activities in 2016

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report**

## Human Rights and the Security Council—An Evolving Role



**Human Rights and the Security Council—An Evolving Role** examines the relationship between the Security Council and human rights, and the role human rights have played in the Council's work. It also considers the relationship between the Security Council and the Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. At all Security Council Report publications, we ensure the effectiveness of the UN's political work in making us stand out in the crowd. Our members of the report to the human rights community are proud of the success of our work and the role of the Security Council in making other's' contribution. We hope that this report will lead to a different scenario in which the Security Council and its parts of the UN will work together to address the different and serious situations in the hands of peace, security and human rights as a common and universal effort by itself.

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report** | January 2016

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report**

## The Security Council and UN Peace Operations: Reform and Deliver



**The Security Council and UN Peace Operations: Reform and Deliver** reports on the High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Secretary-General's report on the progress of the reform process. It also discusses the role of the Security Council in the reform process and the challenges ahead.


**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report** | May 2016

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report**

## Security Council Elections 2016



**Security Council Elections 2016** provides an overview of the 2016 elections to the Security Council, including the candidates, the voting process, and the results.

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report** | June 2016

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report**

## Appointing the UN Secretary-General: The Challenge for the Security Council



**Appointing the UN Secretary-General: The Challenge for the Security Council** discusses the process of appointing the UN Secretary-General and the role of the Security Council in this process.

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report** | January 2016

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report**

## The Rule of Law: Can the Security Council make better use of the International Court of Justice?



**The Rule of Law: Can the Security Council make better use of the International Court of Justice?** explores the relationship between the Security Council and the International Court of Justice and the potential for reform.

**SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT**  
Independent, impartial, transparent

**Research Report** | December 2016

of analysis received by Council members and the negative impact of negotiation patterns in the drafting of mandates. In its final sections, the report considered two major aspects of the review which framed member states' discussions on peace operations: the protection of civilians, the use of force and the principles of peacekeeping; and the important role of partnerships, particularly that with the AU.

One of the main changes of the report was that substantial changes in the Council's own working methods regarding the mandating, monitoring and support of peace operations seem to be fundamental to achieving real improvement. In particular, it argued that no reform of peace operations would be complete if the Council did not reflect on and modify its role in designing, reviewing and supporting operations, with delivery in the

field its key priority. It emphasised the importance of breaking down the siloes in which Council members' own teams work and applying the approach of the peace operations review across the board: taking the initiative to change the Council's working methods, ensuring that strategic discussions take place ahead of mandate renewals, being willing to spend political capital while on the Council, and sustaining engagement throughout the mandate cycle of peace operations.

### Security Council Elections 2016 (3 June 2016)

The purpose of SCR's annual elections report is to assist the wider UN membership in their preparations for the Security Council's election of five new non-permanent Council members. The 2016 report was published in advance of the elections held on 28 June and presented the

candidates (Bolivia, Ethiopia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands and Sweden), analysed possible issues with regard to the composition of the Council, and provided an overview of relevant UN Charter provisions and rules of procedure for election to the Council, as well as historical background and established practices. It was the first time that elections were held six months ahead of the beginning of the term of office. Except for the Council elections in 1946, which took place in January, the earliest that they had been held in the previous 70 years was late September. The General Assembly elected Bolivia Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Sweden and after five inconclusive rounds of balloting, Italy and the Netherlands agreed to split the 2017-2018 term, with Italy serving in 2017 and the Netherlands in 2018.

### Appointing the UN Secretary-General: The

## Main Activities in 2016

### *Challenge for the Security Council (30 June 2016)*

This research report was a follow-up to SCR's 16 October 2015 report on appointing the Secretary-General, which provided relevant factual background on the history of the process and procedure for the appointment and reviewed proposals for reform of the process just as Council members were starting to prepare for the selection in 2016 of Ban Ki-

moon for the Council was to recommend the right Secretary-General to lead the UN in the face of numerous new global challenges. While recognising the political nature of the selection process and the need for the Secretary-General to work with the permanent members as well as the wider UN membership, the report emphasised the importance of not compromising on the qualities required and for the Council to play its part in a process that would

to ask it to provide advisory opinions on legal questions that arise in the Council's work. At the same time, the Charter gives the Council responsibility for addressing instances of non-compliance by states with the Court's judgments brought before the Council. However, the Council has rarely taken advantage of this potential relationship or played a role in addressing non-compliance. For the most part, the role of the ICJ has been neglected by Council members and by the Secretariat.

This report on the rule of law therefore analysed the history and dynamics of the Security Council's relationship with the ICJ and the potential for the Council to make better use of it in its work to promote international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

One of the findings of the report was that although the Council has wide discretion in the way it executes its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, it could benefit by recommending in certain situations (and in extraordinary situations, demanding) that states settle their disputes before the Court, or by requesting advisory opinions from the Court. As a further part of its primary responsibility, the study argued that the Council could take a proactive role in ensuring compliance with Court judgments.

The report also argued that it was important for the Security Council, the wider UN membership and the Secretariat to bear in mind the potential of the Court to assist the Council in executing its responsibilities when trying to resolve conflicts and situations on its agenda. According to this analysis, by consistently considering the possible role of the ICJ in a given situation, the Council would be more likely to utilise the ICJ appropriately, enhancing the effectiveness of its actions.

*During my tenure as President of the 70th session of the General Assembly, Security Council Report's comprehensive coverage of the process of selecting and appointing the next Secretary-General was useful for many actors in the process. Security Council Report's publications provided a better understanding of the work of the Security Council for the larger membership of the General Assembly, and it was precisely in the nexus of the work of the Council and the Assembly that historic progress was made towards more transparency and inclusivity in this process - Mogens Lykkesøft, President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly*

moon's successor. Our 2016 report reviewed major developments that had occurred since October 2015 in both the General Assembly and the Security Council, including the institution of a formal nomination process and publication of the details and vision statements of the 11 candidates that had been nominated to date.

The report examined in detail the evolution of previous Council practice on the use of straw polls—its informal procedure for testing the viability of candidatures—with a view to providing answers to some commonly-asked questions about straw polls and formal ballots. It went on to highlight some of the key issues for the Council in the appointment of the Secretary-General and provided analysis of Council dynamics regarding the process.

The report noted that the highly secretive nature of the process in the past had made it difficult to verify some historical information and provide an accurate picture of the procedure and details of past selections. It noted that by contrast, the process to replace Ban Ki-moon had been unprecedented in terms of increased transparency and inclusiveness in the General Assembly, and expressed the hope that this new openness would significantly influence the process in the Security Council. The report concluded that the challenge

communicate a positive view of the UN and its leadership to a global audience.

### *The Rule of Law: Can the Security Council make better use of the International Court of Justice? (20 December 2016)*

SCR's fourth report on the rule of law focused on the relationship between the Security Council and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The UN Charter envisioned a symbiotic relationship between the Council and the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the UN. Indeed, one of the tools available to the Council to settle peacefully disputes affecting international peace and security, is to make use of the ICJ's jurisdiction in such cases or

*Security Council Report remains an invaluable resource in understanding the dynamics at the Security Council. Its work in tracking debates, negotiations, and long-term patterns have made it the foremost organisation shedding light on developments at the Council. SCR's work is particularly important in light of ongoing shifts in the international order that have potentially major implications on the UN. - Jean-Marie Guéhenno, President of International Crisis Group*



## Main Activities in 2016

*The Australian Mission always turns to Security Council Report for their reliable and timely information, reports and analysis on developments in the Security Council. They are providing an invaluable service to make the work of the Security Council more accessible and transparent. - Ambassador Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN*

Overall, the report concluded that—at a time when the demands on the Council were higher than ever in its history—strengthening the relationship between the Council and the Court could further promote international peace and security.

### SCR and Human Rights

As noted in SCR's research report on human rights published in January 2016, and as referred to above, the Security Council has gradually changed its attitude from largely keeping human rights outside its scope until fairly recently, to now seeing human rights as an important factor that must be taken into account in its effort to maintain international peace and security.

The importance of human rights in the Council's work is reflected in the activities of SCR as we seek to consistently highlight the Council's work relating to human rights and international justice as well as the protection of civilians and actors' international humanitarian law obligations. SCR systematically tracks Council performance on these issues through our comprehensive analyses of Council decisions in country-specific situations. In this way, SCR is able to assess the extent to which human rights and protection concerns have been addressed and whether the Council is consistently implementing commitments made in previous decisions, in

*As a member of the Security Council, we have benefited a lot from the works of SCR. In fact, its work was also exceedingly helpful to us in our preparation for the Council. While in the Council, we have found the contribution of the SCR indispensable for preparations we make to participate in the proceedings of the Council in a meaningful manner. - Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN*

particular in areas such as ensuring compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and promoting accountability for violations of the law. Also, as noted above, the Monthly Forecast includes a separate section on human rights-related developments within the UN system for each of the country-specific situations covered. These sections typically highlight relevant developments in the Human Rights Council, findings

*Security Council Report makes the complex work of the UN Security Council lucid, transparent and open. Kazakhstan, as an incoming member of the Council for 2017-2018, was given invaluable assistance by SCR, and thus adequately prepared to assume its responsibilities on the Council. We highly esteem our close partnership with Security Council Report. - Ambassador Kairat Umarov, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the UN*

of its mechanisms and activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In 2016, building on the research and findings of the research report published early in the year, SCR strove to further develop our focus on human rights. Based on the feedback received from diplomats following the report's release, UN officials and civil society colleagues, we identified as a particularly

important area of work to contribute towards advancing and stimulating linkages between UN actors based in Geneva and those in New York in the context of human rights and conflict prevention. As a first step, over the course of 2016 SCR organised or participated in outreach events for the Geneva diplomatic community and members of the civil society and worked with member states on initiatives aimed at enhancing human rights leadership and political coherence across the UN system.

### Capacity Development

SCR's website and published reports constitute a unique resource and educational tool for diplomats and others seeking to acquire knowledge about the Security Council and its activities and deepen their understanding of its practices and procedures. In addition, SCR has developed a capacity development programme to enhance the technical and procedural performance of elected Security

Council members.

The programme is designed as an intensive exercise comprised of lectures, case studies and interactive exchanges with course participants, ideally before the elected member joins the Council. It offers an overview of the Council's mandate, practices and procedures, working methods, subsidiary bodies and internal and external dynamics. It normally also includes sessions on country-specific situations and thematic issues of particular interest to the participating country. While the programme is primarily intended to serve interested candidate countries or elected members, SCR has occasionally organised training sessions for other interested member states and representatives of the media, as well as members of non-governmental organisations.

In 2016, SCR conducted capacity development sessions for Ethiopia, Italy,

## Main Activities in 2016

*Security Council Report is a crucial resource for Crisis Action and civil society around the globe. We would be at a huge disadvantage without their accurate, comprehensive and timely insights into what is really happening on the Security Council.* - Vanessa Jackson, UN Director, Crisis Action

Kazakhstan, Sweden, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates, and briefed a group of journalists from New Zealand media. We also conducted a capacity development session for representatives of NGOs from around the world attending a session of the Human Rights Council. As before, the actual training was tailored to the specific needs and interest of each participating group and therefore differed from case-to-case, comprising several individualised sessions. As of 31 December 2016, the following 19 countries had participated in the programme: Angola, Chile, Ethiopia, Finland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. This list includes seven of the ten elected members serving on the Council in 2016.

In addition to capacity development courses for individual countries, SCR continued its cooperation with the Security Council Affairs Division of the UN Secretariat on an annual seminar on Security Council sanctions for the newly elected Council members. The 2016 seminar was held on 7 November and provided an opportunity for the five incoming members—Bolivia, Ethiopia, Italy, Kazakhstan and Sweden—to familiarise themselves with the various sanctions regimes as part of their preparations to join the Council.

On several occasions in 2016, SCR staff members were invited as guest lecturers to classes on Security Council-related issues for university students.

### Outreach

Over the course of 2016, SCR continued to conduct extensive outreach activities, mainly

through briefings and discussions, targeting a number of key stakeholders, including Council members, UN member states, the UN Secretariat and agencies, foreign policy institutes, NGOs, academic institutions, and the media. Our monthly discussions of the issues before the Security Council continued to attract strong interest from our three key constituents: UN member states, UN entities, and NGOs.

The participants in the monthly meeting with NGOs included Action Against Hunger, Amnesty International, CARE, Caritas Internationalis, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Crisis Action, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Human Rights Watch, International Crisis

*By shining light on the inner workings of the Security Council, SCR has made it a better, and more legitimate, place. SCR's extraordinary work has made a world of difference for scholars, analysts, and policy makers alike. It has given us front row seats to history in the making.* - Ed Luck, Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs School of International and Public Affairs Columbia University

Group, International Federation for Human Rights, International Rescue Committee, Jacob Blaustein Institute, Oxfam International, Refugees International, Women's Refugee Commission, the World Federalist Movement, and World Vision.

The monthly discussion with UN entities was regularly attended by representatives of the New York offices of the UN

High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, UN Women, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Participants also included representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Bank.

The monthly meeting with UN member states was regularly attended by some 20 countries, including SCR donors and recently departed elected members of the Security Council.

SCR also regularly hosted meetings of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council and continued to make its conference room available for other Council-related events, in order to facilitate and encourage focused discussions on the work of the Council.

Over the course of 2016, SCR's Executive Director and Deputy Director, as well as other staff, were invited as speakers at a number of roundtables, conferences and

panel discussions in New York, Geneva, and several other locations. This included an executive briefing by the Executive Director organised by the Director General of the UN Office in Geneva. SCR frequently briefed delegations of officials and parliamentarians visiting New York.

# Financial Situation

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (31 DECEMBER 2015 AND 31 DECEMBER 2016)

	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 603,871	\$ 1,067,388
Grants receivable (net)	137,918	741,836
Security deposits	130,744	130,744
Prepaid expenses	9,672	399
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 882,205</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,367</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 94,374	\$ 97,843
Deferred rent	30,102	45,474
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>124,476</b>	<b>143,317</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted (including cumulative foreign currency losses of \$38,995 and \$40,165 in 2015 and 2014, respectively)	612,985	\$ 902,315
Temporarily restricted	144,744	894,735
	<b>757,729</b>	<b>1,797,050</b>
	<b>\$ 882,205</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,367</b>

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES (YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 AND 31 DECEMBER 2016)

	2016	2015
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>		
Grants and contributions	\$ 1,606,654	\$ 2,137,850
Other income	0	0
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>1,606,654</b>	<b>2,137,850</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	2,305,299	2,273,302
Management and general services	251,283	207,472
Fundraising	75,978	53,303
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>2,632,560</b>	<b>2,534,077</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(1,039,321)</b>	<b>(396,227)</b>
Net assets (beginning of the year)	1,797,050	2,232,272
<b>Net assets (end of year)</b>	<b>757,729</b>	<b>1,797,050</b>



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## List of Donors in 2016

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SCR is grateful to its generous donors. They provide the financial support which is necessary for the organisation to achieve programme objectives and continue to extend its products and services to UN member states and other stakeholders at no cost. In 2016, SCR received funding from the following governments and foundations:

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*(Reflects Membership and Affiliation as of 31 December 2016)*

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## Staff

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*Executive Director*

**Joanna Weschler**

*Deputy Executive Director*

**Amanda Roberts**

*Associate Director*

**Shamala Kandiah Thompson**

*Associate Director*

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*Senior Policy Analyst*

**Paul Romita**

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**Victor Casanova Abos**

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*(Reflects Staff as of 31 December 2016)*