

resolution 1430 (2002), by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Decided to adjust the mandate of UNMEE, in order to assist the Boundary Commission in the expeditious and orderly implementation of its Delimitation Decision, to include with immediate effect: (a) demining in key areas to support demarcation, and (b) administrative and logistical support for the Field Offices of the Boundary Commission; endorsed the technical steps for territorial transfers as a broad framework for the process as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report, and decided to review, as necessary, the implications for UNMEE in this regard;

Called on the parties to cooperate with UNMEE in the implementation of its mandate; encouraged the parties to continue cooperating with UNMEE on providing the information and maps required by the Mission for the demining process;

Called on the parties to cooperate fully and promptly with the Boundary Commission; appealed to the parties to exercise restraint, and emphasized that in accordance with article 14 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, the security arrangements were to remain in effect;

Called on the parties to refrain from unilateral troop or population movements; demanded that the parties allow UNMEE full freedom of movement and remove with immediate effect any and all restrictions on, and impediments to the work of, UNMEE and its staff in the discharge of its mandate.

Decisions of 6 September 2002 to 12 September 2003: resolutions 1434 (2002), 1466 (2003) and 1507 (2003) and statement by the President

At its 4606th, 4719th and 4822nd meetings,⁵⁸ the Council, after considering reports of the Secretary-General,⁵⁹ adopted unanimously resolutions 1434 (2002), 1466 (2003) and 1507 (2003), by which it extended the mandate of UNMEE for additional periods of six months.

In his reports, the Secretary-General stated, *inter alia*, that the overall situation in the Temporary Security Zone was good, but that the parties should immediately give to UNMEE and the Boundary Commission all necessary cooperation for the expeditious demarcation of the border and improve bilateral relations. By those resolutions, the Council *inter alia*: called on the parties concerned to refrain from troop movements or population movements until the border was delimited and to cooperate fully with UNMEE and the Boundary Commission; committed the Council to frequent reviews of the progress made by the parties in the implementation of their commitments under the Algiers Agreements; and extended the mandate of UNMEE. A complementary statement by the President (Spain) was released at the 4787th meeting, on 17 July 2003.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ Held on 6 September 2002, 14 March 2003 and 12 September 2003, respectively.

⁵⁹ S/2002/977, S/2003/257 and S/2003/858.

⁶⁰ S/PRST/2003/10.

14. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Decision of 29 March 2000 (4122nd meeting): statement by the President

At its 4121st meeting, on 29 March 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau.¹ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the presidential elections held on 16 January 2000 had brought to an end the post-conflict transitional period in Guinea-Bissau that had started following the Abuja Accord of 1 November 1998, and had allowed the inauguration of a new pluralist parliament and the formation of a broad-based Government. He

acknowledged that the overall situation in Guinea-Bissau was peaceful and that the humanitarian situation, particularly that of refugees, had noticeably improved. He expressed the expectations that with the electoral process; the investiture of a new President; the inauguration of the new National Assembly; and the formation of a new Government, the transitional institutions deriving from the Abuja Accord had completed their role and that all such extra-constitutional structures would give way to the newly established constitutional institutions. The Secretary-General expressed concern over the public posture of the military and the circulation of small arms in civilian communities, noted the prominence of human rights issues after the election and welcomed the

¹ S/2000/250, submitted pursuant to resolution 1233 (1999).

improvement of relations with neighbouring countries. He reported that, following consultations with the new Government, he had proposed and the Council had approved the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) for one year.²

At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the report of the Secretary-General, following which most members of the Council made statements.³ In his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General expressed concern with the difficulties encountered in redefining the relationship between the new Government and the military establishment, but noted that the negotiations between the Government and the former military junta continued in an encouraging way, and that the Representative of the Secretary-General had provided his good offices as required. He noted that the President of Guinea-Bissau had offered five posts of minister of state to members of the military. He urged all Guinea-Bissau parties, including the former military junta, to fully accept the new democratic reality. He observed however, that the economic situation remained worrying and urged members of the international community to provide assistance for the Government's 100 days transitional programme.⁴

Following the briefing, most speakers welcomed the gradual return to constitutional and democratic order in Guinea-Bissau following the elections. Some speakers noted that Guinea-Bissau represented a success for the United Nations.⁵ Many speakers underlined the need to redefine the role of the military in accordance with the rule of law.⁶ The representative of the Netherlands stressed that a revival of the junta in any form on the political scene of Guinea-Bissau would not be tolerated.⁷ The representatives of France, Argentina and Bangladesh stressed the need to address the issue of the continuing circulation of large

quantities of small arms in civilian communities.⁸ The representative of the United Kingdom underlined the need to keep an eye on the situation in the region and emphasized peacebuilding as the main challenge facing the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau.⁹

At its 4122nd meeting, on 29 March 2000, the Council again included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau.¹ The President (Bangladesh) made a statement on behalf of the Council,¹⁰ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Paid tribute to the people of Guinea-Bissau for the success of the transitional process which has led to the organization of free, fair and transparent elections;

Welcomed the swearing in of President Kumba Yala on 17 February 2000 and the return to constitutional and democratic order in Guinea-Bissau;

Encouraged all concerned in Guinea-Bissau to work together closely in a spirit of tolerance to strengthen democratic values, to protect the rule of law, to depoliticize the army and to safeguard human rights;

Expressed its support for the newly elected Government of Guinea-Bissau and encouraged the new authorities to develop and to implement programmes devised to consolidate peace and national reconciliation.

Decision of 29 November 2000 (4239th meeting): statement by the President

At its 4238th meeting, on 29 March 2000, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General and the Vice-President of the World Bank. Following the briefings, statements were made by all members of the Council¹¹ as well as the representatives of the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau,¹² Mozambique and Senegal and the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. In his briefing, the Secretary-General pointed to the precariousness of the stability in Guinea-Bissau following an armed

² The extension of the mandate was approved through an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2000/201 and S/2000/202). See chapter V for more details.

³ The representative of the Russian Federation did not make a statement.

⁴ S/PV.4121, pp. 2-3.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 3 (United States); p. 7 (France); and p. 9 (Tunisia).

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4 (United States); p. 6 (Malaysia); p. 9 (Netherlands); p. 10 (Ukraine); and p. 11 (Bangladesh).

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 8 (France); p. 10 (Argentina); and p. 11 (Bangladesh).

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 11 (United Kingdom); and p. 12 (Bangladesh).

¹⁰ S/PRST/2000/11.

¹¹ The representative of France made a statement on behalf of the European Union. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia aligned themselves with the statement. The Netherlands was represented by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

¹² At this meeting, Guinea-Bissau was represented by the Vice-Prime Minister.

showdown between the head of the former military junta and the elected President, which had nearly plunged the country back into turmoil. In relation to that event he welcomed the quick response of the Council and of leaders in and outside the subregion and urged the Government to manage the aftermath of the crisis within the rule of law and with due regards to democratic principles and national reconciliation. He further stressed the need to address the root causes of the conflict in Guinea-Bissau, which included the weakness of the institutions, the disgruntled and highly politicized army, the endemic poverty, the crippling debt and the insecure internal and external environment. This required a serious long-term commitment to peacebuilding. He emphasized that post-conflict peacebuilding, because of its multidisciplinary nature, often fell between relief and traditional development assistance and was therefore frequently under funded. He therefore called on the support of Council members and of the donor community, in implementing one of the recommendations of the Brahimi report¹³ and allowing the Representative of the Secretary-General to fund quick-impact projects in order to prevent a relapse into a cycle of conflict and instability.¹⁴

The Vice-President of the World Bank, in his statement, pledged the World Bank's commitment to assist the Government of Guinea-Bissau in key sectors such as finances, education and health but emphasized the need for continued and expanded assistance from others in the international community. He further pointed to the fact that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were reviewing the eligibility of Guinea-Bissau for the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative and held that if approved, the relief would represent the biggest debt relief granted to that date and would allow for sustained growth and poverty reduction.¹⁵

At the same meeting, the Vice-Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau underlined the progress made by his country in the areas of good governance, poverty reduction and human rights. He acknowledged the successful response of the armed forces to the attempted coup of 22 November 2000. He, however, highlighted three challenges facing the country: the

reorganization of the military, the crippling debt burden and the achievement of peace and security at a regional level, especially in Casamance. On the latter, he pledged his country's intention to play a front-line role in the stability of the region and in the search for peaceful solutions of conflicts, while fully supporting the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and the Charter of the United Nations.¹⁶

Most Council members welcomed the upholding of democratic order after the attempted coup; expressed concern over the role of the military in the country; underscored the need to strengthen democracy in Guinea-Bissau and promote national reconciliation; stressed the importance of regional stability and good-neighbourly by relations, and underlined the importance of the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants for national stability.¹⁷ The representative of the United States, echoed by the representative of Malaysia, stressed that a return to military rule in Guinea-Bissau would not be accepted by the international community.¹⁸

Most speakers concurred on the relation between economic and political difficulties in Guinea-Bissau and underlined the need to develop an integrated, holistic approach to address them. The representative of Jamaica emphasized the concept of sustainable human development and requested that the Security Council ensure that peacebuilding measures be included as an integral part of the peace operations.¹⁹ The representative of Mali proposed an integrated joint approach involving the United Nations system and the international financial institutions.²⁰ The representative of Argentina proposed that Article 65 of the Charter on cooperation between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council be made more operational and effective.²¹ The representative of the Netherlands rejected the compartmentalization of pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict approaches and advocated for the Security Council to undertake

¹³ Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (S/2000/809).

¹⁴ S/PV.4238, pp. 2-3.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-8.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 10 (Bangladesh); p. 12 (France); and p. 13 (Canada, United Kingdom); S/PV.4238 (Resumption 1), p. 2 (China); p. 5 (Ukraine); and p. 10 (Netherlands).

¹⁸ S/PV.4238, p. 10 (United States); and S/PV.4238 (Resumption 1), p. 6 (Malaysia).

¹⁹ S/PV.4238 (Resumption 1), p. 4.

²⁰ S/PV.4238, p. 9.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

peacebuilding efforts in a coordinated way.²² Several speakers also discussed the provision of development assistance and debt relief in the context of a larger peacebuilding strategy. The representatives of Malaysia and Namibia raised the issue of ensuring the safe return of refugees and displaced persons.²³ The representative of Argentina underlined that lessons could be drawn from the situation of Guinea-Bissau and applied to other transition processes.²⁴ The Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries stressed the importance of the contact group of that organization in the process of restoring peace and security in Guinea-Bissau and requested that the Government be granted waivers for the implementation of development programmes needed by the country, as parameters and conditions for the implementation of a programme's objectives should not serve as an obstacle to development.²⁵

At the 4239th meeting, on 29 November 2000, the President (Netherlands) made a statement on behalf of the Council,²⁶ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Reiterated its support for the democratically elected Government of Guinea-Bissau;

Welcomed the return to peace, democracy and constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau;

Called upon the members of the former military junta to subordinate themselves fully to the civilian institutions and to withdraw from the political process;

Commended the support provided by the Bretton Woods institutions to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process in Guinea-Bissau;

Recognized and commended the important role played by the UNOGBIS towards helping consolidate peace, democracy and the rule of law; called upon Member States to provide generous support at the next round table scheduled for February 2001 in Geneva;

Acknowledged the relevance of the regional dimension;

Welcomed the initiatives the President of Guinea-Bissau and the President of Senegal had taken towards stabilization of their common border region.

²² S/PV.4238 (Resumption 1), p. 9.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Malaysia); and p. 7 (Namibia).

²⁴ S/PV.4238, p. 14.

²⁵ S/PV.4238 (Resumption 1), pp. 15-16.

²⁶ S/PRST/2000/37.

Decision of 19 June 2003 (4776th meeting): statement by the President

At its 4776th meeting,^{27,28} on 19 June 2003, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS.²⁹ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the situation had worsened in Guinea-Bissau and that the political instability and a deteriorating political climate had heightened tensions between the Government and its political opponents and weakened the respect for human rights. It had also prevented the holding of legislative elections, the promulgation of a revised constitution and the implementation of reforms. The Secretary-General welcomed the efforts of subregional organizations towards national reconciliation. He noted the pledge of the armed forces to democracy despite the rumours of coup attempts and desertion. He underlined the progress in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme but underlined that a professional national police force was still lacking. He stressed the worsening economic and social situation and the inability of the Government to pay salaries. In this regard, he noted the reclassification of Guinea-Bissau by the World Bank as a low-income country under stress, enabling the Bank to closely monitor economic and social conditions in the country. The Secretary-General urged the leaders of Guinea-Bissau to ensure that the rehabilitation and peacebuilding agendas could be put back on track and that all efforts be made towards the holding of free, fair and credible legislative elections. He held that if conditions were not conducive to credible elections, the United Nations could reconsider its electoral assistance. He reported that he had dispatched another electoral mission to Guinea-Bissau to review the situation.

At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Representative of the Secretary-General and Head

²⁷ At its 4567th meeting, held in private on 8 July 2002, the Council heard a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOGBIS. The members of the Council and the Representative of the Secretary-General had a constructive discussion.

²⁸ For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. VI, part II, sect. B, case 9, with regard to relations between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

²⁹ S/2003/621, submitted pursuant to resolution 1233 (1999).

of UNOGBIS and the Chairman of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau,³⁰ following which statements were made by all members of the Council as well as by the representatives of Guinea-Bissau and the Gambia.³¹ In his briefing, the Representative of the Secretary-General echoed the Secretary-General's concerns over the evolution of Guinea-Bissau and the need to focus on returning the country to political and constitutional normality. While observing that the opposition had continued to accuse the Government of restrictions of civil liberties, he noted that donors had conditioned the support for the elections on the creation of conditions propitious for credible elections. He reported on the electoral needs assessment mission by the Department of Political Affairs, which noted some progress made in voter registration but concluded that the election date should be postponed to finalize the planned electoral census. He also noted the worrying economic situation and the periodic strike of public sector workers due to the non-payment of salary arrears by the Government. He further welcomed the Security Council's initiative to launch a mission to Guinea-Bissau with the participation of the Economic and Social Council.³²

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, in his briefing, echoed the conclusion of the Secretary-General that the country might be sliding back towards chaos and even conflict. He also observed that Guinea-Bissau presented a unique case that did not qualify for the instruments applied by the Council to maintain international peace and security, or to the instruments applied by donors and the Bretton Woods institutions to countries in a post-conflict phase. He underscored that priority should be given to holding credible legislative elections in order to regain the confidence of the donor community, and that the uncertainty of the political situation had an impact on efforts to address the humanitarian needs of the country.³³

³⁰ The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau also represented the President of the Economic and Social Council.

³¹ The representative of the Gambia spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau.

³² S/PV.4776, pp. 2-4. For more details on the mission, see the case study in section 54 (Security Council mission) of the present chapter.

³³ S/PV.4776, pp. 3-5.

In their statements, most speakers expressed concern for the fragile human rights situation as well as the worsening social and economic situations and the need to restore donor confidence through the holding of free and fair elections. Speakers also underlined the necessity for national reconciliation, reasserted the importance of regional cooperation and welcomed the forthcoming visit of the joint Economic and Social Council and Security Council mission to Guinea-Bissau and the help of international donors. The representatives of Germany, France and Spain stressed that free and fair elections should be scheduled as soon as possible.³⁴ As a member of the European Union, Germany, supported by Bulgaria, stressed that adherence to the basic principles of good governance was a prerequisite for the return of Guinea-Bissau to democracy and sustained development and based the financial support of the European Union to the electoral process and humanitarian efforts in Guinea-Bissau on the commitment of Guinea-Bissau to these principles.³⁵ The representative of the United States also underlined that assistance to the electoral process should be conditional on clear and irrevocable steps ensuring free and fair elections and that the United Nations should not lend legitimacy to a flawed election process.³⁶

Some speakers pointed to the unique situation of Guinea-Bissau, which required specific flexibility from the international community.³⁷ The representative of the Gambia criticized "the unofficial regime of sanctions" applied to Guinea-Bissau, explaining that the exceedingly high expectations in the performance of the Government had prevented the delivery of humanitarian assistance and development support.³⁸

Concerning peacebuilding, the representative of Chile, echoed by the representatives of Pakistan and the Russian Federation, supported a multidisciplinary approach that could become a model of coordinated efforts between the Security Council and other United Nations organs to deal with pre-conflict and post-conflict situations.³⁹ The representative of the Russian Federation specifically proposed a two-way liaison

³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 15 (France); p. 17 (Bulgaria); and p. 17 (Spain).

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 8 (Germany); and p. 17 (Bulgaria).

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Gambia); p. 7 (Angola); p. 10 (Guinea); p. 13 (Cameroon); and p. 16 (Pakistan).

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 11 (Chile); p. 15 (Pakistan); and p. 19 (Russian Federation).

between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council,⁴⁰ while the representative of Pakistan proposed the establishment of ad hoc composite committees with membership drawn from the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.⁴¹

At the same meeting, the President (Russian Federation) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁴² by which the Council, inter alia:

Urged the country's leaders and the international community to work more purposefully together to ensure that the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding agendas were quickly put back on track; appealed to the President and Government of Guinea-Bissau to organize effectively and in a timely manner the forthcoming legislative elections and to ensure that those elections were conducted in a transparent, fair and credible manner, in accordance with the Constitution and the electoral law;

Called on the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take the necessary steps to facilitate a constructive dialogue with the international community and the Bretton Woods institutions and to fully endorse the partnership approach defined by the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau;

Appealed the donor community to contribute financially to the implementation of the political and economical process in Guinea-Bissau, including necessary support for the legislative elections;

Expressed its concern with regard to the situation of human rights and civil liberties, and urged the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take the necessary measures in order to improve this situation;

Stressed the importance that freedom of speech and freedom of the press be fully respected.

Deliberations of 29 September 2003 (4834th meeting)

At its 4834th meeting,⁴³ on 29 September 2003, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-

General for Political Affairs and by the Special Envoy of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries, after which statements were made by most members of the Council and the representative of Guinea-Bissau.⁴⁴ The Assistant Secretary-General updated the Council on the situation in Guinea-Bissau following the military coup d'état on 14 September 2003. He reported that, thanks to the mediation efforts of regional organizations, an agreement was reached between the military and the President on 17 September 2003, providing for the return of the armed forces to the barracks, the resignation of the President, the establishment of a Transitional Government of National Unity led by a civilian interim President and the holding of general elections. A transitional Charter had been adopted on 28 September 2003 and provided for legislative elections to be held by 28 March 2004 and presidential elections to be held within one year of the election of the National Assembly. The Assistant Secretary-General noted the atmosphere of consensus between parties and called out to the international community for continued financial support to the Transitional Government.⁴⁵

The Special Envoy of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to Guinea-Bissau noted that it seemed that the military intervention that brought down the elected President of Guinea-Bissau had been "welcomed by all of Guinea-Bissau's society". He saluted the strength, tolerance and spirit of solidarity of the people of Guinea-Bissau, who had remained peaceful despite the financial and political difficulties. He also welcomed the commitment of all parties to the return to normalcy and called for the international community to trust those responsible for the coup, as they did not wish to remain in power and had been motivated by the difficult social and economic conditions.⁴⁶

In their statements, most speakers called for a rapid return to constitutional normalcy and welcomed the coordinated efforts of regional organizations to mediate the crisis. Many speakers regretted the unconstitutional change of power in Guinea-Bissau and emphasized the importance of holding elections as soon as possible.⁴⁷ The representatives of Germany and France supported the stance of the African Union

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 19.

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 16.

⁴² S/PRST/2003/8.

⁴³ At the 4860th meeting, held in private on 18 November 2003, the Secretary-General, the President of Guinea-Bissau, members of the Council, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the representative of the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, the representative of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries, the Chairman of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau and the Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOGBIS had a constructive exchange of views.

⁴⁴ The representatives of Bulgaria and the United Kingdom did not make statements.

⁴⁵ S/PV.4834, pp. 2-3.

⁴⁶ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 5 (Germany); p. 7 (Russian Federation); p. 10 (Chile, Spain, France); and p. 12 (Mexico).

against the seizure of power by force and expressed concern that Guinea-Bissau could become a failed state.⁴⁸ The representative of Chile pointed out that all coups d'état should be repudiated, whether bloodless or violent.⁴⁹ The representatives of the Russian Federation, France and Guinea requested that the Council monitor the situation and ensure the holding of free and fair elections.⁵⁰ The representative of the Russian Federation also asked to be briefed on the means undertaken in preparation of the legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau and the use of the funds provided by the donors for that purpose.⁵¹ Some members stressed the possible negative consequences for the United Nations of a failure of the peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau.⁵² The representative of

Guinea hoped that the Council would make the extension of the peacebuilding mandate in Guinea-Bissau a priority.⁵³ The representative of Mexico considered that the task of the United Nations would be to ensure the holding of elections, monitor the economic crisis and coordinate efforts among the agencies involved.⁵⁴

The representative of Guinea-Bissau expressed regret that the use of force had appeared to be the only solution, but underlined that consensus was prevailing in Guinea-Bissau over the transitional Charter and asked the international community to recognize the differences between the coup of Guinea-Bissau and the events in the Central African Republic.⁵⁵

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 5 (Germany); and p. 10 (France).

⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 9.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 7 (Russian Federation); p. 10 (France); and p. 11 (Guinea).

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 16.

⁵² Ibid., p. 8 (Pakistan); p. 11 (Guinea); and p. 13 (Mexico).

⁵³ Ibid., p. 11.

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 13.

⁵⁵ Ibid., pp. 13-15.

15. The situation in Guinea following recent attacks along its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone

Initial proceedings

Decision of 21 December 2000 (4252nd meeting): statement by the President

At its 4252nd meeting, on 21 December 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda the item entitled "The situation in Guinea following recent attacks along its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone". The Council then invited the representative of Guinea to participate in the meeting. The President (Russian Federation) drew the attention of the Council to a letter from the representative of Mali,¹ transmitting the final communiqué of the twenty-fourth session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held at Bamako on 15 and 16 December 2000. The communiqué stressed the need for the disarmament of irregular armed groups and the restoration of peace in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and called for an immediate deployment of interposition forces along their borders.

¹ S/2000/1201.

At the meeting, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council,² by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Condemned incursions into Guinea by rebel groups coming from Liberia and Sierra Leone;

Also condemned the looting of the facilities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian organizations;

Reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guinea; called on all States to refrain from providing any military support and from any act that might contribute to further destabilization of the borders between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

Requested the Secretary-General to consider what support the international community might provide ECOWAS in order to ensure security on the border of Guinea.

² S/PRST/2000/41.