

concluded by saying that he hoped one day Africa would have a permanent representation on the Security Council.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., pp. 16-18.

## 11. The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

### **Decisions of 12 March 2004 to 13 September 2005: resolutions 1531 (2004), 1560 (2004), 1586 (2005) and 1622 (2005)**

At its 4924th, 5032nd, 5139th, and 5259th meetings,<sup>1</sup> the Security Council adopted unanimously and without debate resolutions extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on the basis of reports of the Secretary-General.<sup>2</sup> In his reports, the Secretary-General noted that, *inter alia*, the general situation in and around the Temporary Security Zone remained relatively stable, but, in the absence of progress on the demarcation of the border and full cooperation with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and UNMEE, that stability should be considered as fragile; the need for implementation of the final and binding decision of 13 April 2002 of the Boundary Commission and improvement of bilateral relations through dialogue; and that the continuing stalemate in the peace process raised questions about the future of UNMEE, which was never meant to support a status quo indefinitely. He recommended that UNMEE should continue its presence at that time, as a stabilizing factor.

By those resolutions,<sup>3</sup> the Council, *inter alia*, extended the mandate of UNMEE for subsequent six-

month periods; called on the parties concerned to cooperate with UNMEE and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and to create the necessary conditions for demarcation to proceed; demanded the removal of restrictions on UNMEE; decided to monitor closely the steps taken by the parties in the implementation of their commitments under the Algiers Agreements, including through the Boundary Commission, and to review any implications for UNMEE; and called on Eritrea to enter into dialogue and cooperation with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea.

### **Decision of 4 October 2005 (5276th meeting): statement by the President**

At the 5276th meeting, on 4 October 2005, the President (Romania) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>4</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its grave concern at the decision of the Government of Eritrea to restrict all types of UNMEE helicopter flights within Eritrean airspace or coming to Eritrea, effective from 5 October 2005;

Emphasized that the aforementioned decision gravely contravened the call in resolution 1312 (2000) on the parties to provide UNMEE with the access, assistance, support and protection required for the performance of its duties;

Reaffirmed that both parties bore the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Algiers Agreements and the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission;

Called on both parties to show maximum restraint and to refrain from any threat of use of force against each other.

### **Decision of 23 November 2005 (5308th meeting): resolution 1640 (2005)**

At the 5308th meeting, on 23 November 2005, the President (Russian Federation) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 16 November 2005 from the representative of Japan addressed to the

<sup>1</sup> Held on 12 March and 14 September 2004 and 14 March and 13 September 2005. During this period the Council also held a number of meetings in private, with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B. The meetings were, held on 10 March 2004 (4922nd), 10 September 2004 (5029th), 11 March 2005 (5138th), 9 September 2005 (5257th), 19 October 2005 (5286th), 13 March 2006 (5383rd), 8 May 2006 (5433rd), 26 September 2006 (5536th), 16 January 2007 (5620th) and 24 July 2007 (5722nd).

<sup>2</sup> S/2004/180, S/2004/708, S/2005/142, S/2005/553 and Add.1.

<sup>3</sup> Resolutions 1531 (2004), 1560 (2004), 1586 (2005) and 1622 (2005).

<sup>4</sup> S/PRST/2005/47.

President of the Council,<sup>5</sup> transmitting a report on the visit to Ethiopia and Eritrea by the Ambassador of Japan, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. In his letter, the Chairman of the Working Group observed that the current stalemate was filled with risk, and any incidents might cause a further deterioration. He underlined that the restrictions on UNMEE were a clear violation of the Algiers Agreements, and, therefore, Eritrea needed to be persuaded to lift the restrictions. Full compliance with the Boundary Commission's decision by Ethiopia also needed to be achieved urgently, and he recommended that a new resolution should urge Ethiopia to fully accept the decision.

The President also drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution;<sup>6</sup> it was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1640 (2005), by which the Council, inter alia:

Deeply deplored Eritrea's continued imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNMEE and demanded that the Government of Eritrea reverse, without further delay or preconditions, its decision to ban UNMEE helicopter flights, as well as additional restrictions imposed on the operations of UNMEE;

Called on both parties to show maximum restraint and to refrain from any threat or use of force against each other;

Requested the Secretary-General to monitor the parties' compliance with the demands above and to report to the Council in 40 days;

Demanded that Ethiopia accept fully and without further delay the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and take immediately concrete steps to enable the Commission to demarcate the border completely and promptly;

Called upon both parties to work, without preconditions, to break the current stalemate through diplomatic efforts.

**Decision of 7 December 2005 (5317th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the 5317th meeting, on 7 December 2005, the President (United Kingdom) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>7</sup> by which the Council, inter alia:

Condemned the decision of the Government of Eritrea to request some members of UNMEE to leave the country within 10 days, which was inconsistent with the obligations of the Government of Eritrea to respect the exclusively international nature of the peacekeeping operation;

Unequivocally demanded that Eritrea immediately reverse its decision without preconditions.

**Decision of 14 December 2005 (5326th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the 5326th meeting, on 14 December 2005, the President (United Kingdom) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>8</sup> by which the Council, inter alia:

Agreed to temporarily relocate military and civilian staff of UNMEE from Eritrea to Ethiopia solely in the interest of the security of the staff, and intended to maintain an UNMEE military presence in Eritrea during the period in which it was reviewing future plans for UNMEE;

Strongly condemned Eritrea's unacceptable actions and restrictions on UNMEE;

Stated its intention to review promptly all options for the deployment and functions of UNMEE;

Emphasized the urgent need for progress in implementation of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission delimitation decision.

**Decision of 24 February 2006 (5380th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At the 5380th meeting, on 24 February 2006, the President (United States) drew the attention of the members to a letter dated 22 February 2006 from the representative of the United States addressed to the President of the Council,<sup>9</sup> transmitting the statement made by the Witnesses to the Algiers Agreement at their meeting on 22 February 2006. He then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>10</sup> by which the Council, inter alia:

Called upon both parties to show maximum restraint and refrain from any threat or use of force against the other;

Recalled that, under the Algiers Agreements, both Eritrea and Ethiopia had agreed to accept the delimitation and demarcation decisions of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission as final and binding and called on both sides to cooperate with the Boundary Commission to implement its decisions without further delay;

---

<sup>5</sup> S/2005/723.

<sup>6</sup> S/2005/732.

<sup>7</sup> S/PRST/2005/59.

---

<sup>8</sup> S/PRST/2005/62.

<sup>9</sup> S/2006/126.

<sup>10</sup> S/PRST/2006/10.

Urged the Boundary Commission to convene a meeting with the parties to prepare to resume demarcation and strongly urged the two parties to attend the Boundary Commission meeting and to cooperate with and abide by the requirements;

Demanded that the parties permit the UNMEE to perform its duties without restrictions and provide UNMEE with the necessary access, assistance, support and protection required for the performance of those duties;

Called upon Member States to provide continued support for UNMEE and contributions to the Trust Fund.

**Decisions of 14 March 2006 to 30 July 2007:  
resolutions 1661 (2006), 1670 (2006), 1678  
(2006), 1681 (2006), 1710 (2006), 1741 (2007)  
and 1767 (2007)**

At its 5384th, 5410th, 5437th, 5450th, 5540th, 5626th and 5725th meetings,<sup>11</sup> the Council adopted unanimously and without debate seven resolutions extending the mandate of UNMEE on the basis of reports of the Secretary-General.<sup>12</sup> In his reports, the Secretary-General noted that, inter alia: the prevailing unstable, tense and volatile situation in the Temporary Security Zone was due to an accumulation of unresolved issues, in particular, the stalemated demarcation process, Ethiopia's refusal to accept without preconditions the delimitation decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, and troop movements by Eritrea into the Temporary Security Zone; that UNMEE had had to operate under "unacceptable conditions for far too long"; that despite its reduced relevance, the presence of UNMEE could still help reduce the chance of conflict; but if there were to be no progress in the coming months towards the carrying out of the Boundary Commission's recommendation, the Council could then consider converting the United Nations operation into an observer or liaison mission.

By those resolutions,<sup>13</sup> the Council, inter alia, extended the mandate of UNMEE; demanded that the parties fully comply with resolution 1640 (2005); approved the reduction of military personnel while maintaining the maximum authorized force levels; demanded that Ethiopia accept the decision of the

Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and allow it to demarcate the border; demanded that Eritrea remove its troops from the Temporary Security Zone and reverse all its restrictions on UNMEE movement and operations and provide it necessary access, assistance, support and protection; regretted the lack of progress on demarcation and called on both parties to refrain from any threat or use of force, and cooperate fully with UNMEE and the Boundary Commission, and expressed its willingness to reconsider changes to UNMEE in the light of subsequent progress towards demarcation.

**Decision of 13 November 2007 (5778th meeting):  
statement by the President**

At its 5778th meeting, on 13 November 2007, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on Eritrea and Ethiopia of 1 November 2007.<sup>14</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the military situation in the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas had remained tense. Eritrea had brought additional military personnel and equipment into the Zone and both countries conducted rotations, training and troop regroupment of their forces in the border area. Eritrea also continued to maintain all restrictions that it had imposed on UNMEE. He noted that the meeting of the two parties with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission on 6 and 7 September had failed to resolve the impasse on the demarcation of the boundary. The continued stalemate on that issue and the continued military build-up, which had already resulted in shooting incidents that underscored the risk of further miscalculation, were causes for serious concern. He called on both parties to exercise the utmost restraint and to pull back their forces and reduce military activities in the border area.

The President (Indonesia) made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>15</sup> by which the Council, inter alia:

Stressed the importance of the commitment of both Ethiopia and Eritrea to lay the foundation for sustainable peace in the region and, aware of the responsibilities of the United Nations under the Algiers Agreements; underscored the acceptance without preconditions by both Ethiopia and Eritrea of the final and binding delimitation decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission;

<sup>11</sup> Held on 14 March, 13 April, 15 May, 31 May and 29 September 2006 and 30 January and 30 July 2007.

<sup>12</sup> S/2006/140, S/2006/749, S/2006/992, S/2007/33, S/2007/440.

<sup>13</sup> Resolutions 1661 (2006), 1670 (2006), 1678 (2006), 1681 (2006), 1710 (2006), 1741 (2007) and 1767 (2007).

<sup>14</sup> S/2007/645.

<sup>15</sup> S/PRST/2007/43.

Urged the parties to take concrete steps to implement immediately and without preconditions the delimitation decision

of the Boundary Commission, taking into account the parties' commitments regarding the Temporary Security Zone;

Called upon the parties to refrain from using force and to settle their disagreements by peaceful means;

Confirmed the parties' primary responsibility to resolve the border issue and their other differences, and expressed its readiness to endorse the commitments made by both parties;

Commended and fully supported the continuing operations of UNMEE, underscored the importance for the parties to provide UNMEE with the necessary access, assistance, support and protection required for the implementation of its mandate and welcomed the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General towards the earliest appointment of a Special Representative.

## 12. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

### **Decision of 18 June 2004 (4992nd meeting): statement by the President**

At its 4992nd meeting, on 18 June 2004, the Security Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>1</sup> In his report, the Secretary-General observed the important progress made towards restoring constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, with the conduct of credible legislative elections and the installation of a new National Popular Assembly and a new Government, as well as with the holding of elections for the President and the Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Justice. With these achievements and with the transfer of power from the National Transition Council to the newly elected Assembly, the first phase of the transition period that had been agreed upon by the military and the Government in a Political Transition Charter signed on 28 September 2003, following the military coup d'état, had been completed. He welcomed the new priorities set by the Government, namely to consolidate national reconciliation; ensure the return to constitutional order; fortify the rule of law and the respect of human rights; develop stable relations with neighbouring countries and international partners and create necessary institutional capacity for good governance, accountable and transparent financial management and the improvement of socioeconomic conditions. He also noted the instrumental contribution of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in

Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) to the protection of human rights in Guinea-Bissau and to the ongoing constructive political dialogue between the Government, the Assembly and international partners. He welcomed the progress made in the demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration programme. However, he expressed concern at the difficult economic situation and noted the shortfall in the multi-donor Emergency Economic Management Fund for Guinea-Bissau, which prevented the full payment of all salary arrears. He concluded that despite the progress the democratization process in Guinea-Bissau remained fragile and that the support of the international community remained paramount.

The Council extended an invitation to the representative of Guinea-Bissau to participate in the discussion. The President (Philippines) then made a statement on behalf of the Council,<sup>2</sup> by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Expressed its satisfaction regarding progress made by national authorities towards restoring constitutional order, in accordance with the Transition Charter provisions and calendar;

Encouraged all parties, and the new Government established on 12 May 2004, to faithfully adhere to the provisions of the Transition Charter in order to achieve and consolidate national reconciliation and to ensure the full restoration of constitutional order;

Expressed, nonetheless, its concern with the fragility of the democratization process in Guinea-Bissau, due mainly to the country's deep-rooted structural problems, including the

---

<sup>1</sup> S/2004/456, submitted pursuant to resolution 1233 (1999).

<sup>2</sup> S/PRST/2004/20.