

Meetings: the situation concerning Western Sahara

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5884th 30 April 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2008/251)	Draft resolution submitted by 5 Member States ^a (S/2008/284)	Rule 37 Spain	6 Council members ^b	Resolution 1813 (2008) 15-0-0
6117th 30 April 2009	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2009/200 and Corr.1)	Draft resolution submitted by 5 Member States ^c (S/2009/224)	Rule 37 Spain	8 Council members ^d	Resolution 1871 (2009) 15-0-0

^a France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom and United States.

^b Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, France, Russian Federation, South Africa and United States.

^c France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom and United States.

^d Austria, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, France, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States.

2. The situation in Liberia

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings, including two private meetings with the troop-contributing countries,⁶ concerning the situation in Liberia, in which it adopted five resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter and received a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia. The Council focused on the drawdown process, which had commenced in line with resolution 1777 (2007), discussing the appropriate pace of the drawdown and progress made in meeting benchmarks.

The Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) twice, for periods of six months and one year, respectively, with a reduced military but increased police presence.⁷ The Council renewed the sanctions regime three times and

also extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts three times.⁸

In May 2009, the Council visited Liberia as part of its mission to Africa.⁹

14 April 2008: briefing on UNMIL

On 14 April 2008, in a briefing to the Council on the basis of the Secretary-General's report, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that Liberia, free of conflict since 2003 after a devastating 14-year-long civil war, was now a place of hope. However, that hope was tempered by a tenuous and fragile peace, with security still heavily reliant on United Nations military and police presence. She called for prudence while proceeding with the drawdown, so as not to put at risk the gains made in

⁶ 5972nd meeting, held on 9 September 2008, and 6184th meeting, held on 3 September 2009.

⁷ Resolutions 1836 (2008) and 1885 (2009).

⁸ Resolutions 1819 (2008), 1854 (2008) and 1903 (2009). For more information, see part IX, sect I.B, in regard to the Panel of Experts.

⁹ For more information, see the present part, sect. 40, and part VI, sect. II, regarding Security Council missions.

security, not only for Liberia but for the entire subregion.¹⁰ In subsequent reports, the Secretary-General highlighted the achievements in meeting the key security benchmarks in spite of significant challenges, including the fragile security situation and weak national institutions.¹¹

18 June 2008 to 19 December 2009: extension of the mandate of the Panel of Experts and of sanctions measures

On 18 June 2008, in resolution 1819 (2008), the Council requested the Secretary-General to renew the mandate of the Panel of Experts for a further period until 20 December 2008. The Council encouraged the Government of Liberia to implement the recommendations of the recent Kimberley Process review and work closely with the Kimberley Process to continue to strengthen Liberian controls on rough diamond trade.

On 19 December 2008, in resolution 1854 (2008), the Council decided to renew the arms embargo and travel ban as well as the mandate of the Panel of Experts for 12 months until 20 December 2009, inter alia, to assess compliance by the Government of Liberia with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, in coordination with the Kimberley Process.

On 17 December 2009, in resolution 1903 (2009), the Council renewed for 12 months its travel ban on persons deemed to be a threat to peace in Liberia and modified its arms embargo to allow the Government of Liberia and UNMIL to receive certain military materiel during the same period. The Council also demanded that the Government make all efforts necessary to enforce the asset freeze imposed on sanctioned persons and entities, which remained in force.¹² Moreover, it extended until 20 December 2010 the mandate of the Panel of Experts monitoring implementation of those measures.

¹⁰ S/PV.5864, pp. 2-5.

¹¹ See S/2009/86 and S/2009/411.

¹² For more information, see part VII, sect. III, in regard to Article 41 of the Charter.

**29 September 2008 to 15 September 2009:
extension of the mandate of UNMIL**

By resolution 1836 (2008) of 29 September 2008, the Council, inter alia, renewed the mandate of UNMIL for 12 months until 30 September 2009, and endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General on a drawdown, authorizing the reduction by March 2009 of the military presence by 1,460 personnel, and increasing the police presence by 240 officers. The Council also requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Liberia, to develop more detailed benchmarks to measure and track progress towards the achievement of security in Liberia.

Pursuant to resolution 1836 (2008), the Secretary-General, in his report dated 10 February 2009,¹³ presented refined benchmarks, relating primarily to the indicators assessing progress made towards building capacity of the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Liberian National Police and to preparations for the 2011 elections. The restoration of effective State authority throughout the country had also been identified as a core benchmark.

On 15 September, by resolution 1885 (2009), the Council, inter alia, extended and expanded the mandate of UNMIL until 30 September 2010. In addition, the Council authorized UNMIL to assist the Government of Liberia with the 2011 general presidential and legislative elections; endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the conduct of free and fair, conflict-free elections be a core benchmark for the Mission's future drawdown; requested the Secretary-General to monitor progress on preparations for the election; and endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation to implement the third stage of the Mission's drawdown, from October 2009 to May 2010, which would keep the military and police component at its existing strength. With regard to building capacity of the Liberian National Police, the Council encouraged coordinated progress on the implementation of the Liberian National Police strategic plan.

¹³ S/2009/86.

Meetings: the situation in Liberia

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5864th 14 April 2008	Sixteenth progress report of the Secretary- General on UNMIL (S/2008/183)		Rule 37 Liberia Rule 39 Special Representative of the Secretary- General for Liberia	Special Representative of the Secretary- General for Liberia	
5914th 18 June 2008	Letter dated 12 June 2008 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/371)	Draft resolution (S/2008/394)	Rule 37 Liberia		Resolution 1819 (2008) 15-0-0
5985th 29 September 2008	Seventeenth progress report of the Secretary- General on UNMIL (S/2008/553)	Draft resolution (S/2008/613)	Rule 37 Liberia		Resolution 1836 (2008) 15-0-0
6051st 19 December 2008	Letter dated 12 December 2008 from the Acting Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2008/785)	Draft resolution submitted by the United States (S/2008/797)			Resolution 1854 (2008) 15-0-0

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6188th 15 September 2009	Nineteenth progress report of the Secretary- General on UNMIL (S/2009/411)	Draft resolution (S/2009/455)	Rule 37 Liberia		Resolution 1885 (2009) 15-0-0
6246th 17 December 2009	Letter dated 11 December 2009 from the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) (S/2009/640)	Draft resolution submitted by the United States (S/2009/648)	Rule 37 Liberia		Resolution 1903 (2009) 15-0-0

3. The situation in Somalia

Overview

During the period 2008-2009, the Security Council held 27 meetings, and adopted 13 resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter and five presidential statements in connection with the situation in Somalia. The Council assessed the conditions for a possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation to take over from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), followed the progress towards implementation of the Djibouti Agreement, strengthened sanctions measures and condemned the terrorist attacks in Somalia. In addition, the Council took action on the growing problem of piracy.

In June 2008, the Council visited Djibouti in connection with the situation in Somalia, as part of its mission to Africa.¹⁴

Furthermore, the Council successively renewed the authorization of the African Union to maintain a mission in Somalia and to use force.¹⁵ The Council twice extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group

supporting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992).¹⁶

15 February 2008 to 30 November 2009: strengthening of AMISOM

During the period under consideration, the Council remained seized of the issue of strengthening AMISOM and its possible replacement by a United Nations peacekeeping force. While the Government of Somalia and some members supported the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation,¹⁷ others expressed the view that conditions, such as improvement in the security situation and progress in political reconciliation, did not yet exist for a United Nations peacekeeping force to take over from AMISOM.¹⁸ However, members were unanimous in

¹⁴ For more information, see the present part, sect. 40, and part VI, sect. II, with regard to Security Council missions.

¹⁵ The Council extended the authorization in resolutions 1801 (2008), 1831 (2008), 1863 (2009) and 1872 (2009).

¹⁶ Resolutions 1811 (2008) and 1853 (2008). For more information, see part IX, sect. I.B, with regard to the Monitoring Group.

¹⁷ For example, see S/PV.5987, p. 3 (South Africa); S/PV.6020, p. 18 (China); S/PV.6026, p. 3 (China); S/PV.6158, p. 12 (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya); p. 23 (Burkina Faso); and p. 24 (Uganda).

¹⁸ For example, see S/PV.6020, p. 12 (France); and p. 22 (Russian Federation); S/PV.6046, pp. 4-5 (United Kingdom); S/PV.6068, pp. 9-10 (France); and S/PV.6095, p. 16 (Russian Federation).