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The situation in Sierra Leone

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings and adopted three resolutions in connection with the situation in Sierra Leone. It received four briefings by the Secretariat and the Chair of the country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission focusing on the political and security situations as well as peacebuilding support activities in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, the Council lifted the remaining sanctions that it had imposed on Sierra Leone in response to the civil war in the 1990's¹ and twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) for periods of one year.²

A table lists the meetings held in consideration of this item, as well as related information, including invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

22 March 2010 to 12 September 2011: briefings on the situation in Sierra Leone and extension of the mandate of UNIPSIL

¹ [Resolution 1940 \(2010\)](#).

² [Resolutions 1941 \(2010\)](#) and [2005 \(2011\)](#). For more information on the mandate of UNIPSIL, see part X, sect. II, with regard to political and peacebuilding missions.

On 22 March 2010, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNIPSIL presented the fourth report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL.³ He highlighted recent developments in relation to the three critical issues for Sierra Leone's peace and stability: youth unemployment, illicit drug trafficking and corruption. Expressing concern that the Peacebuilding Commission had been unsuccessful in raising the necessary financial resources to implement its strategy for Sierra Leone, he stated that the lack of funding could jeopardize its new peacebuilding approach in the country.⁴ The Chair of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission reported on the recent mission to the country, saying that the delegation's size and authority had demonstrated the level of interest in Sierra Leone. He noted that the Peacebuilding Commission had aligned its engagement with the country's own peacebuilding priorities, focusing on good governance, youth employment and drug trafficking.⁵ The representative of Sierra Leone assured the Council of his Government's commitment to promoting good governance, human rights, gender equality, decentralization, transparency and accountability. At the same time, he emphasized his Government's determination to establish a culture of political tolerance among the main political parties.⁶

On 28 September 2010, presenting the fifth report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL,⁷ the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General stated that while Sierra Leone had made great progress in moving from civil war to stability, it required continued international support in the coming period to maintain stability and economic progress. He noted that the preparations for the elections in 2012, the management of natural resources, and developments in neighbouring Guinea could have a major impact on shaping Sierra Leone's political, social and economic future.⁸ The Chair of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission reported that the

³ [S/2010/135](#).

⁴ [S/PV.6291](#), pp. 2-4.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-8.

⁷ [S/2010/471](#).

⁸ [S/PV.6391](#), pp. 2-5.

Commission had been considering the progress that had been achieved in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone and was charting its future engagement. He pointed to a list of emerging needs, including the preparations for the 2012 elections, which required the strengthening of the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Electoral Commission and the police sector.⁹

On 29 September 2010, the Security Council adopted [resolution 1941 \(2010\)](#) by which it extended the mandate of UNIPSIL until 15 September 2011 and emphasized that the mission, in the upcoming year, under the Joint Vision of the United Nations system, should focus on assisting the Government, inter alia, with preparations for the 2012 elections, conflict prevention and mitigation, efforts to tackle youth unemployment, and promoting good governance. Furthermore, the Council encouraged the Peacebuilding Commission to provide support to the Government of Sierra Leone in preparation for the 2012 elections as requested, including the potential to mobilize support from international partners, that was required for the implementation of the Government's Agenda for Change and the United Nation's Joint Vision strategy and in that regard to advise and keep the Council updated, including on progress made in meeting core peacebuilding objectives, as necessary.

On 24 March 2011, while presenting the sixth report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL,¹⁰ the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General noted that the country still faced considerable challenges. However, with continued strong international support to help Sierra Leone overcome critical challenges such as youth unemployment and vulnerability to shocks, the country's emergence from a brutal civil war could have a "ripple effect" on other troubled countries in Africa. He pointed out that Sierra Leone which had once been the symbol of a failed State, was now gradually evolving into a model country for overcoming old divisions and developing into a peaceful, democratic

⁹ Ibid., pp. 6-7.

¹⁰ [S/2011/119](#).

and prosperous country.¹¹ The Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission added that Sierra Leone was entering a transition period marked by a gradual shift in emphasis from late-stage peacebuilding towards longer-term economic development. He stated that three processes would largely define the transition, namely, the continued pursuit of a national strategy for peace consolidation and economic growth, the conduct of the 2012 elections, and the steady realignment of international assistance behind development priorities.¹² The representative of Sierra Leone briefed the Council on his Government's effort in consolidating peace and stressed the commitment of his President to reduce aid dependency through partnerships with the private sector.¹³

On 12 September 2011, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General presented the seventh report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL¹⁴ and commented on recent political developments in the country, with a focus on the progress towards the 2012 elections. He hoped that an agreement could quickly be reached on the legal framework for the upcoming presidential, legislative and local elections, as well as a new code of conduct governing election campaigns.¹⁵ The Chair of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission emphasized the need for the main political parties to engage in a more open, regular and productive high-level dialogue. He stressed that it was critical that the relationship between relevant national bodies, including the Electoral Commission and the political parties registration commission continued to improve.¹⁶ The representative of Sierra Leone stated that his Government remained committed to conducting peaceful, free, fair, credible and transparent elections in 2012. The National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission enjoyed the independence to deliver effectively on their constitutional mandate, free of interference. While stating that efforts were also being

¹¹ [S/PV.6504](#), pp. 2-5.

¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 5-7.

¹³ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8.

¹⁴ [S/2011/554](#).

¹⁵ [S/PV.6609](#), pp. 2-5.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 5-7.

made to consider reform of the electoral process, he added that successful elections would be a benchmark and indicator in assessing whether meaningful peace and stability had really taken firm root.

On 14 September 2011 the Security Council adopted [resolution 2005 \(2011\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNIPSIL to 15 September 2012 and charged it with providing technical assistance to all relevant stakeholders to play a meaningful role in achieving peaceful, credible and democratic elections. The Council also called on the Government of Sierra Leone to hold regular, inclusive and constructive party political dialogue on all major national, political, social and economic issues bearing on the future peace and development of Sierra Leone.

29 September 2010: decision terminating all remaining sanctions measures

On 29 September 2010, the Security Council adopted [resolution 1940 \(2010\)](#) by which it recalled its readiness to terminate the measures once the control of the Government of Sierra Leone had been fully re-established over all its territory, and when all non-governmental forces had been disarmed and demobilized. To that end, it decided to terminate, with immediate effect, the measures set forth in paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of [resolution 1171 \(1998\)](#) and decided further to dissolve the Committee established by paragraph 10 of [resolution 1132 \(1997\)](#) with immediate effect.

Meetings: the situation in Sierra Leone

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
6291 22 March 2010	Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) (S/2010/135)		Sierra Leone	Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6391 28 September 2010	Fifth report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL (S/2010/471)		Sierra Leone	Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6392 29 September 2010	Fifth report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL (S/2010/471)	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2010/495)	Sierra Leone		Sierra Leone	Resolution 1940 (2010) 15-0-0
		Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2010/496)				Resolution 1941 (2010) 15-0-0
6504 24 March 2011	Sixth report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL (S/2011/119)		Sierra Leone	Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6609 12 September 2011	Seventh report of the Secretary-General on UNIPSIL (S/2011/554)		Sierra Leone	Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6611	Seventh report of the Secretary-General on	Draft resolution	Sierra Leone		Sierra Leone	Resolution 2005

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
14 September 2011	UNIPSIL (S/2011/554)	submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2011/572)				(2011) 15-0-0
