

the valley from the rest of Georgia. In the wake of this incident UNOMIG had, with the consent of both sides, initiated its own independent fact-finding efforts to clarify the circumstances of the incident.

The overall approach to the settlement of the conflict, remained that a successful dialogue on security, the return of internally displaced persons, refugees and economic rehabilitation and humanitarian issues would help to bring about a comprehensive political settlement, but the situation with regard to actual contact between the two sides remained disappointing and overshadowed by developments that had generated distrust. Observing that the presence of UNOMIG had continued to contribute to security in the conflict zone, and the international community had continued to promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Secretary-General recommended the extension of the UNOMIG mandate for a further six-month period.

The President (Ghana) drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution submitted by France,

Germany, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States;³⁵ it was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and without debate as resolution 1781 (2007), by which the Council, inter alia:

Urged the continued active engagement of both sides within the Joint Fact-finding Group and expressed its support for the report of the Joint Fact-finding Group on the rocket firing incident in the upper Kodori Valley on 11 March 2007;

Decided to extend the mandate of UNOMIG for a new period terminating on 15 April 2008;

Requested the Secretary-General to make use of the extended mandate to support the parties in implementing measures to build confidence and to establish an intensive and meaningful dialogue, and to inform the Council of progress made in his next report on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia;

Strongly supported the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and called upon the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General to continue giving him their steadfast and unified support.

³⁵ S/2007/603.

32. Briefing by the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe¹

¹ As from the 4964th meeting, on 7 May 2004, the wording of the item “Briefing by His Excellency Mr. Mircea Geoana, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe” was revised to read “Briefing by the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”.

Deliberations of 7 May 2004 to 28 September 2007 (4964th, 5134th, 5346th and 5751st meetings)

At its 4964th, 5134th, 5346th and 5751st meetings,² at which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States, the Security Council was briefed by the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In those annual briefings to the Council, the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE underlined the importance of OSCE as the primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict

rehabilitation, and outlined the priorities of the Organization within the politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human dimensions. Those priorities included counter-terrorism; control of the spread of small arms and light weapons; policing; border management and security; economic and environmental threats; election monitoring; democratization assistance; monitoring of the freedom of the media; promotion of tolerance and education; combating international crime; promotion of the rule of law; and conflict prevention with a special focus on Kosovo³ and unresolved conflicts such as those in

³ In this Supplement, the term “Kosovo” is used as the short form for “Kosovo, State Union of Serbia and Montenegro” and “Kosovo, Republic of Serbia”, without prejudice to issues of status.

² Held on 7 May 2004, 4 March 2005, 16 January 2006 and 28 September 2007.

Transnistria, Moldova; South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Georgia; and Nagorny-Karabakh.⁴

The Chairman-in-Office urged the members of the Security Council, in particular those who were mediators in those conflicts or who had influence over the parties, to support the efforts of OSCE. Noting the difficulty for inter-State organizations to deal with non-State actors, even if in some cases they were the de facto authorities, he urged the Council to exert pressure in the context of OSCE mediation efforts to help resolve the above-mentioned long-standing conflicts.⁵

The Chairman-in-Office noted that OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, had been focusing on close and expanding cooperation with the United Nations, the

European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other regional organizations with the aim of improving their ability to respond quickly and effectively in addressing major contemporary challenges.⁶ In that context, the Chairman-in-Office assured the Council of the full support of OSCE for the principles and recommendations contained in resolution 1631 (2005), which were aimed at strengthening cooperation and consultation between the United Nations and regional organizations, while recognizing the primary responsibility of the Security Council for international peace and security.⁷

Most speakers expressed appreciation of the cooperation between OSCE and the United Nations and generally endorsed the priorities outlined by the Chairman-in-Office during the period under review.

⁴ S/PV.4964, pp. 2-6; S/PV.5134, pp. 2-5; S/PV.5346, pp. 2-4; and S/PV.5751, pp. 2-4.

⁵ S/PV.5134, p. 3.

⁶ S/PV.4964, p. 2; and S/PV.5134, pp. 2-3.

⁷ S/PV.5346, p. 4.

Middle East

33. The situation in the Middle East

A. United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Decisions of 29 June 2004 to 14 December 2007: resolutions 1550 (2004), 1578 (2004), 1605 (2005), 1648 (2005), 1685 (2006), 1729 (2006), 1759 (2007) and 1788 (2007) and statements by the President

At each of its 4998th, 5101st, 5205th, 5339th, 5456th, 5596th, 5698th and 5802nd meetings,¹ the Security Council adopted unanimously and without a

debate a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF) for periods of six months on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General.² In his reports, the Secretary-General observed that the situation in the Israeli-Syrian sector had remained generally quiet. He noted that, from 12 July to 14 August 2006, rockets originating from the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had hit close to UNDOF positions in the Shab'a area.³ In general, UNDOF continued to perform its role as supervisor of the ceasefire between the Syrian and Israeli forces. Despite the calm, he noted that the situation in the Middle East was tense and was likely to remain so unless a comprehensive settlement could be reached.

In the resolutions adopted during this period, the Council called upon all parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973; renewed the mandate of UNDOF for successive

¹ Held on 29 June and 15 December 2004, 17 June and 21 December 2005, 13 June and 15 December 2006 and 20 June and 14 December 2007, respectively. During this period, in addition to those meetings, the Council held a number of meetings in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001). The meetings were held on 24 June 2004 (4996th), 10 December 2004 (5098th), 15 June 2005 (5200th), 16 December 2005 (5330th), 6 June 2006 (5452nd), 13 December 2006 (5587th), 12 June 2007 (5692nd) and 11 December 2007 (5797th).

² S/2004/499, S/2004/948, S/2005/379, S/2005/767, S/2006/333, S/2006/938, S/2007/331 and S/2007/698.

³ See S/2006/938.