



## *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

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Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division  
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

### **Security Council mission**

#### **Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council completed four missions where members of the Council visited the field. Destinations of the missions included several African countries<sup>1</sup> and Afghanistan. The missions consisted of representatives of all members of the Council. The Council held three meetings under the item entitled “Security Council mission”, where it was briefed by the heads of the missions on their findings in those countries. The mission to Afghanistan was covered under the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan”.<sup>2</sup> Summaries of the briefings are presented by region. The tables provide procedural information on meetings held in connection with these two items.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Briefings on Security Council missions**

##### **Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (13-16 May 2010)**

On 19 May 2010, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “Briefing by the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo”. At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the leader of the mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (France). He reported on the meetings held with the President and members of the Congolese government, the Congolese Parliament and others, which confirmed that while the country had evolved over the past ten years and progress had been made, the humanitarian and human

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<sup>1</sup> Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya.

<sup>2</sup> [S/PV.6351](#).

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the composition and reports of the missions, see part VI, sect. II. A. (table 2), with regard to Security Council missions.

rights situations in the country remained fragile, and security sector reform remained a key challenge. The mission had conveyed to the Congolese authorities the Council's readiness to work with them to strengthen peace and stability in the country, in order to ensure the protection of civilians and allow for the reconfiguration of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).<sup>4</sup>

### **Security Council mission to Afghanistan (21-24 June 2010)**

On 30 June 2010, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan". During the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the head of the mission to Afghanistan (Turkey). The representative of Turkey reported that members of the mission had met with the President of Afghanistan and his Cabinet as well as members of the executive and legislative branches, where the mission members had underlined, inter alia, the necessity of free and fair elections. The members of the mission had also encouraged the Afghan authorities to advance their efforts to promote, among other issues, the rule of law and human rights, as well as highlighted the importance of combating the narcotics industry and trade.<sup>5</sup>

### **Security Council mission to Africa (4-10 October 2010)**

On 14 October 2010, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled "Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa". During the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the leader of the Uganda segment of the mission (Uganda) and the co-leaders of the Sudan segment of the mission (United States and the United Kingdom).

The representative of Uganda reported that in the meeting of the mission with the President of Uganda, he had stressed that it was imperative that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was implemented fully, supporting the efforts of the parties towards peaceful, credible and timely referendums. The President also emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and sub-regional organizations on security issues, and called for United Nations support for regional efforts in dealing with the Lord's Resistance Army. During the trip, mission members also visited the United Nations Support Base in Entebbe, where they were briefed on its operations in support

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<sup>4</sup> [S/PV.6317](#), pp. 2-3.

<sup>5</sup> [S/PV.6351](#), p. 6.

of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Council members were informed that, in addition to MONUSCO, the base was supporting other African field missions and entities such as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).<sup>6</sup>

The representative of the United States reported that in Juba, the mission had met with the President of Southern Sudan, who emphasized his concerns on issues such as the unresolved border demarcation and delay in preparations for the referendum in Abyei. The mission had also met with members of civil society and religious officials, where it had heard concerns about the tight timetable for the referendum and the situation in Abyei. She reiterated the need for the Council to steadfastly support the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.<sup>7</sup>

The representative of the United Kingdom reported that in Darfur, the mission had met with the Joint Special Representative for UNAMID, who briefed the mission members on the work of UNAMID and the security situation in the region. The mission also visited the internally displaced persons camp in Abu Shouk, where mission members had met with representatives of the camp to gain a better understanding of their concerns regarding food, medical and other needs. He stated that the mission had returned with deep concerns regarding the security situation in Darfur and its impact on the plight of civilians. In Khartoum, the mission had met with the Vice-President and Foreign Minister of the Sudan, the Chair of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and others. Both the Vice President and the Foreign Minister had expressed the strong commitment by the Government of the Sudan towards full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, as well as in tackling key outstanding issues including the situation in Abyei and the post-referendum arrangements on border demarcation, citizenship and wealth-sharing. On the issue of Darfur, the Vice President and the Foreign Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to pursue peace and development in the region, but had also stressed the need for rebel groups to join the peace process immediately and without preconditions. The mission conveyed its concern regarding the security situation in Darfur, as well as the restrictions on UNAMID and humanitarian access.

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<sup>6</sup> [S/PV.6397](#), pp. 2-3

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

He concluded that the mission had returned with a better understanding of the urgency of the challenges facing the Sudan and the political will that would be required to meet them.<sup>8</sup>

### **Security Council mission to Africa (19-26 May 2011)**

On 6 June 2011, the Council included in its agenda the item entitled “Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa”. During the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the leader of the Ethiopia segment of the mission (France) and the co-leader of the Sudan segment of the mission (United States, on behalf of the Russian Federation, which was also co-leader of the segment). The co-leaders of the Kenya segment (United Kingdom and South Africa) also briefed the Council.

The representative of France reported that in Addis Ababa, the mission had met with members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. In its annual meeting with the Peace and Security Council, members of the mission considered in detail the situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Côte d’Ivoire, the Sudan and Somalia, with a view to establishing a common strategy that would allow the United Nations and the African Union to implement their actions more effectively. Members of the mission had also met with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia to discuss the situation in the Sudan and Somalia, as well as the issues of Eritrea and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.<sup>9</sup>

The representative of the United States reported that in Khartoum, the mission had met with the Minister of State for the Presidency and several other Sudanese Government officials, where members emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Abyei. The mission had also met with the Chair of the High-Level Implementation Panel of the African Union, who outlined his efforts to facilitate negotiations on outstanding issues concerning the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and post-referendum arrangements. In Juba, the mission had met with the President, Vice-President and ministers of the Government of South Sudan, and had reiterated its grave concern regarding events in Abyei, including the attack by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army on the United Nations Mission in Sudan convoy on 19 May. In concluding, she stated that the mission had continuously stressed the importance of both parties

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-6.

<sup>9</sup> [S/PV.6546](#), pp. 2-3.

fully implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement before South Sudan gained independence on 9 July 2011, especially in light of the crisis in Abyei.<sup>10</sup>

The representative of the United Kingdom reported that in Nairobi the mission had met with the Transitional Federal President and other officials of the Transitional Federal Government and Parliament of Somalia, as well as the Presidents of Galmudug, Puntland and representatives of Somaliland. In its meeting with the Transitional Federal Institutions, the mission had expressed its grave concern regarding the impact that the discord between the Transitional Federal Institutions was having on the political process and the security situation, and had conveyed in very clear and strong terms the Council's expectation that the Government and Parliament reached an agreement on the issue of elections rapidly. In its meetings with the Presidents of Galmudug, Puntland and representatives of Somaliland, all highlighted the progress made on security and development, but also stressed the threats posed by piracy and terrorism. The mission recognized the need for the international community to support further stabilization, peacebuilding and socio-economic reconstruction, as well as for a comprehensive response to tackle piracy and its underlying causes.<sup>11</sup>

The representative of South Africa reported on the meetings, also in Nairobi, with the Vice-President and Prime Minister of Kenya, the High Representative and Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and others. In the meeting with the Vice President, he expressed concern regarding terrorism, piracy and the lack of support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) from the international community and the Council. In the meeting with the AMISOM Force Commander, members of the mission were briefed on the challenges faced by AMISOM, in particular the lack of equipment, logistical support, air and maritime support, and predictable financing. Reporting also on meetings held with the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), IGAD and the African Union, he concluded that they needed a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the security, humanitarian and development challenges in Somalia.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., pp. 3-5.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

<sup>12</sup> [S/PV.6546](#), pp. 5-7.

### a) Security Council mission

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
6317 19 May 2010	Briefing by the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (13 to 16 May 2010)	Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General transmitting the terms of reference of the mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <a href="#">S/2010/187</a> )	France
6397 14 October 2010	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa (4-10 October 2010)	Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General transmitting the terms of reference of the mission to Uganda and the Sudan ( <a href="#">S/2010/509</a> )	Uganda, United States and United Kingdom
6546 6 June 2011	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Africa (19 to 26 May 2011)	Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General transmitting the terms of reference of the mission to Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya ( <a href="#">S/2011/319</a> )	France, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States

### b) The situation in Afghanistan

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub- item</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
6351 30 June 2011	Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 40 of <a href="#">resolution 1917 (2010)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2010/318</a> )  Letter dated 14 June 2010 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2010/325</a> )	Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Pakistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), European Union	All Council Members and all invitees