



## *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

### **The situation in Timor-Leste**

#### **Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings in connection with the situation in Timor-Leste, including two closed meetings with the troop-contributing countries,<sup>1</sup> and adopted two resolutions. On 26 February 2010, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)<sup>2</sup> for one year, and endorsed the Secretary-General's intention to draw down its police component, in line with the phased resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste.<sup>3</sup> On 24 February 2011, the Council extended the mandate of UNMIT for one year and, inter alia, requested UNMIT to support, within its current mandate, the preparation of parliamentary and presidential elections planned for 2012, and the further institutional development and capacity building of the National Police of Timor-Leste.<sup>4</sup>

During the period, the Council received briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and head of UNMIT on the activities of the mission, including the resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste, and the technical and logistical support provided in preparation for the presidential and parliamentary elections due in 2012.

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

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<sup>1</sup> [S/PV.6275](#) and [S/PV.6332](#).

<sup>2</sup> For additional information on the mandate of UNMIT, see part X, sect. I, with regard to peacekeeping operations.

<sup>3</sup> [Resolution 1912 \(2010\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> [Resolution 1969 \(2011\)](#).

### **23 February 2010 and 19 October 2010: briefings on the resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste**

On 23 February 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported that Timor-Leste had made remarkable progress since the events of 2006, and that the country had reached a new stage where there was intensified focus on measures needed to sustain stability, deepen democracy and the rule of law, reduce poverty and strengthen institutions. She further stated that the long-term security and stability of Timor-Leste depended on the resumption of the primary policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste. In this regard, she emphasized that reconfiguring and reorienting the UNMIT police component would be one of her main priorities, which would include supporting further skills development for the National Police of Timor-Leste, along with increased community policing and criminal investigations. Regarding the overall security sector, she stated that particularly critical outstanding issues were the need for a clear definition and delineation of roles and responsibilities of the National Police of Timor-Leste and the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL), along with the strengthening of civilian oversight.<sup>5</sup>

The Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste stated that the stability and a peaceful political environment in Timor-Leste demonstrated that the United Nations intervention in Timor-Leste had been very successful. He reported that the economy of Timor-Leste was seeing strong growth, and the Government was making efforts in the area of accountability and transparency of its finances, strengthening its judicial institutions and the rule of law, and improving relations with countries in the region. He stated that there was a consensus in Timor-Leste that UNMIT should remain in the country until 2012, as recommended by the Secretary-General.<sup>6</sup>

Speakers generally welcomed the fact that the security situation in Timor-Leste remained stable during the period. Several speakers stressed the need for clearly delineated roles and responsibilities between the National Police of Timor-Leste and F-

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<sup>5</sup> [S/PV.6276](#), pp. 2-5.

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

FDTL, as the ongoing uncertainty in the relationship between them was a possible destabilizing factor.<sup>7</sup> While welcoming the resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste, several speakers also emphasized the need for sufficient capacity building and adequate training of the National Police of Timor-Leste personnel.<sup>8</sup>

On 19 October 2010, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported that the security and political situation in Timor-Leste continued to be stable, allowing state institutions to focus on the long-term challenges of the country. She noted that many plans, strategies and institutions had been developed with a longer-term focus in mind, including a strategic plan for the justice sector and a package of national security laws. Regarding the National Police of Timor-Leste, she stated that the Government was working in close cooperation with UNMIT on strategies to guide the challenges of building its capacity and strengthening its institutions, and also to prepare for its resumption of policing responsibilities. Regarding the justice sector, she stressed that steady progress had been made, including the transition of international legal actors from line functions to advisory roles, with an increasing number of national actors. She stated that an agreement had been reached with the Government of Timor-Leste on establishing a joint mechanism to ensure that the transition process was consistent with the Government's strategies, and that there was a smooth transfer of UNMIT functions to state institutions.<sup>9</sup>

The representative of Timor-Leste stressed the progress in key areas such as the ongoing resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste, the promulgation of the national security legislation package and finalization of the national strategic plan. However, she stated that Timor-Leste continued to face many challenges, and in the current phase of its nation-building agenda, the areas of peace and stability, economic growth and poverty reduction, and justice and the promotion of

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 12 (United Kingdom); p. 13 (Uganda); p. 14 (Mexico); p. 17 (Brazil); and p. 18 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 8 (Japan); p. 11 (Russian Federation); p. 12 (United Kingdom); p. 14 (Mexico); p. 15 (United States); p. 16 (Turkey); p. 17 (Brazil); p. 18 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); p. 20 (Nigeria); p. 24 (South Africa); and pp. 28- 29 (Portugal).

<sup>9</sup> [S/PV.6405](#), pp. 2-5.

human rights were considered priorities for the country. Looking beyond the resumption process, she stated that the strengthening of the National Police of Timor-Leste was at a new stage, with intensified efforts to develop a sustainable national capacity and institutions. She called upon members of the Council and the international community to continue their engagement and to provide the necessary assistance in building a stable and prosperous Timor-Leste.<sup>10</sup>

Speakers welcomed the continuing stability in Timor-Leste and the efforts of the Government towards national reconciliation, economic development, and building capacity of its institutions. Several speakers noted that the gradual resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police had not led to an increase in crime.<sup>11</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation underlined that the timetable for the transfer of policing responsibilities should be based on the preparedness of the police units, rather than on an artificially set schedule.<sup>12</sup> The representative of Turkey stressed that the mandate of UNMIT and force composition should not be further altered until the 2012 elections, and further efforts must be focused on building the capacity of the police and other state institutions.<sup>13</sup>

## **22 February and 22 November 2011: briefings concerning measures to support Timor-Leste in the preparation for the 2012 elections**

On 22 February 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General expressed confidence that the completion of the resumption of primary policing responsibilities by the National Police in all districts could be finalized in the coming months. This would be followed by the reconstitution phase, during which UNMIT police would primarily focus on further institutional strengthening and capacity-building of the National Police. She emphasized that one of the critical tasks for UNMIT would be to

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-8.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 10 (United Kingdom); p. 11 (Brazil); p. 20 (Turkey); p. 25 (Philippines); and p. 28 (European Union).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 20.

help ensure that the National Police of Timor-Leste established itself as a professional and impartial national police service that had the trust of the Timorese people and was capable of guaranteeing public security, with due respect for human rights and the rule of law. She stated that the main political challenges ahead included the national presidential and parliamentary elections in 2012, for which the Government had indicated that it would require continued United Nations electoral support.<sup>14</sup>

The Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Security of Timor-Leste outlined the achievements made in various sectors by the five-party coalition Government since its entry into office in August 2007. He stated that the Government was formalizing its application for membership in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). He emphasized that the restoration of peace and stability was primarily a result of the reforms started in the National Police and F-FDTL, which had overcome their differences. While the transfer of executive responsibility from the United Nations Police (UNPOL) to the National Police of Timor-Leste was to be completed by 27 March 2011, the National Police of Timor-Leste would continue to require the assistance of UNPOL in advisory and capacity-building functions. Regarding the election period, he stressed that his country would draw up a special agreement with UNMIT to enable UNPOL to participate jointly with the National Police in the maintenance of public order in the country.<sup>15</sup>

Most speakers expressed their appreciation towards UNMIT and the United Nations country team for assisting the transition of Timor-Leste towards lasting stability and democracy. Several speakers welcomed the efforts of UNMIT to support the National Police of Timor-Leste in training, capacity-building and institutional development.<sup>16</sup> Several speakers stressed that long-term stability could only be achieved if the Government took a firm stance against impunity and brought perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to justice.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> [S/PV.6485](#), pp. 2-6.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-10.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10 (India); pp. 11-12 (United States); p. 13 (Bosnia and Herzegovina); and p. 29 (Australia).

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12 (United States); p. 14 (France); p. 17 (United Kingdom); p. 21 (Columbia); p. 22 (Lebanon); p. 23 (Germany); and p. 31 (European Union).

On 22 November 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported that on 27 March 2011, the National Police of Timor-Leste had resumed responsibility for the conduct, command and control of all police operations in the country. She noted that UNMIT had intensified its focus on providing support for further institution development and capacity-building of the National Police, and would maintain that capacity throughout the 2012 electoral period. Regarding the parliamentary and presidential elections in 2012, she noted that United Nations support to the elections would be provided through the joint UNMIT and United Nations Development Programme electoral support team. She further encouraged international partners to send observers for the elections and to provide financial support for United Nations electoral activities.<sup>18</sup>

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste underlined the significant progress made in several areas, including economic development, political and social stability, and reform of the defence and security sectors. He stated that following the elections, Timor-Leste would begin a new phase with the gradual withdrawal of UNMIT and the integration of the country into ASEAN.<sup>19</sup>

Speakers welcomed the progress made by Timor-Leste, in particular its economic growth, and stressed the importance of the elections in 2012 being conducted in a transparent and peaceful manner. Many speakers welcomed the significant level of collaboration between UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste in developing the joint transition plan and the successful transfer of all policing responsibilities from UNMIT to the National Police.<sup>20</sup> The representative of the United Kingdom emphasized that the withdrawal of UNMIT should be conducted carefully and efficiently, and underlined the need to articulate a clearer timetable for the post-election withdrawal of UNMIT personnel.<sup>21</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the final decision on the withdrawal of UNMIT should be taken after the presidential and parliamentary elections had been held, taking into account the prevailing political and

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<sup>18</sup> [S/PV.6664](#), pp. 2-5.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-8.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9 (Brazil); p. 11 (United States); pp. 12-13 (South Africa); p. 13 (France); p. 15 (India); p. 17 (United Kingdom); p. 18 (Russian Federation); p. 20 (Germany); and p. 21 (Portugal).

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

security situation, and that the arrangements for a subsequent United Nations presence should be subject to substantive discussions with the newly elected Government.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid., p. 18 .

**Meetings: the situation in Timor-Leste**

<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>
6276 23 February 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) ( <a href="#">S/2010/85</a> )		Australia, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Timor-Leste (Deputy Prime Minister)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIT, Acting Head of the European Union Delegation	All Council members and all invitees	
6278 26 February 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIT ( <a href="#">S/2010/85</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by 21 Member States <sup>a</sup> ( <a href="#">S/2010/95</a> )	Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Timor-Leste			<a href="#">Resolution 1912 (2010)</a> 15-0-0
6405 19 October 2010	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIT ( <a href="#">S/2010/522</a> )		Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Timor-Leste	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the European Union Delegation	All Council members and all invitees	
6485 22 February 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIT (for the period from 21 September 2010 to 7 January 2011) ( <a href="#">S/2011/32</a> )		Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Timor-Leste (Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Acting Head of the European Union Delegation	All Council members and all invitees	



<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>
6487 24 February 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIT (for the period from 21 September 2010 to 7 January 2011) ( <a href="#">S/2011/32</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by 20 Member states <sup>b</sup> ( <a href="#">S/2011/86</a> )	Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Timor-Leste			<a href="#">Resolution 1969 (2011)</a> 15-0-0
6664 22 November 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIT ( <a href="#">S/2011/641</a> )		Angola, Australia, Japan, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, <sup>c</sup> Philippines, Timor-Leste (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members, all invitees under rule 39 and 7 under rule 37 <sup>d</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>b</sup> Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>c</sup> Papua New Guinea spoke on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States (SIDS): Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

<sup>d</sup> Although invited under rule 37, the representative of Nauru did not make a statement.