

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Composition</i>	<i>Reports and terms of reference</i>	<i>Meeting number and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Invitations (rules 37 and 39)</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
Timor-Leste	24 to 30 November 2007	South Africa (head of mission), China, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United States	S/2007/647	5791 6 December 2007	Briefing by the head of the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste	<b>Rule 37</b> Timor-Leste	Head of mission (South Africa), Italy, Timor-Leste
			S/2007/711	5801 13 December 2007	Report of the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste, 24-30 November 2007 (S/2007/711)	<b>Rule 37</b> Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Timor-Leste	Head of mission (South Africa), Australia, Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, United States

<sup>a</sup> The mission's visit to Guinea-Bissau was made jointly with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau of the Economic and Social Council and the Group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau (Brazil, Gambia, South Africa).

<sup>b</sup> The mission to Haiti was undertaken in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>c</sup> The mission also visited the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa.

## 56. Briefings

During the period under review, the Security Council heard a number of briefings on subjects not explicitly connected to items on the Council's agenda. Where appropriate, those briefings have been covered in the sections in the present chapter dealing with the different regions.<sup>1</sup> Briefings given at closed meetings and those that touch on issues cutting across regions are covered here.

The Council heard briefings at closed meetings from the President of the International Court of Justice<sup>2</sup> and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on human settlements issues in Zimbabwe.<sup>3</sup>

During this period, the Security Council held an increased number of meetings at which it heard directly from the Chairmen of its subsidiary bodies. At its 5106th meeting, on 22 December 2004, the Council heard briefings under the item entitled "Briefings by Chairmen of Security Council Committees and

<sup>1</sup> See, under Africa, sects. 18.A (Institutional relationship with the African Union) and 19 (Briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence of Uganda) and, under Europe, sect. 32 (Briefing by the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) of the present chapter.

<sup>2</sup> 5557th and 5775th meetings, held on 27 October 2007, respectively.

<sup>3</sup> 5237th meeting, held on 27 July 2005. For more information on the discussion at this meeting, see chap. II, part II, sect. A, case 1.

Working Groups”, while at 10 other meetings the Council heard briefings under the item entitled “Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council”.<sup>4</sup> At those meetings, the Chairmen of various sanctions and anti-terrorism committees and other working groups provided an overview of the work of their organs to the Council. A complete table of those briefings may be found in the introductory note to chapter V.

The Council also heard a number of briefings that related to humanitarian issues. At its 5792nd meeting, on 6 December 2007, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, who reported on his visit to Ethiopia, the Sudan and Somalia from 26 November to 4 December. In Ethiopia, he met with the Government to discuss the humanitarian crisis in the Somali region, where the conflict between Government forces and the Ogaden National Liberation Front conflict had led to fears of famine. In the Sudan, he visited the Darfur region to review the implementation of the joint communiqué of the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations on facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur and to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground. He underlined that while the joint communiqué had helped to reduce some of the bureaucratic obstacles hindering relief agencies, overall the situation was deteriorating and attacks against humanitarian workers were becoming more common. Finally, in Somalia he visited

the area outside of Mogadishu where more than 200,000 internally displaced people had gathered and reported on the relief efforts there.

Following his briefing, all Council members made statements and welcomed the briefing, expressing concern at the humanitarian challenges in those regions. Several speakers also underlined the need for the earliest possible deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia.<sup>5</sup>

At the 4973rd and 5353rd meetings, on 20 May 2004 and 24 January 2006, respectively, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees briefed the Council, stressing the link between forcible displacement and international peace and security, and addressed the issue of the sustainable return of displaced populations and its positive impact on the creation of durable peace and stability. She also made proposals in the areas of peace operations and peacebuilding, noting the need for more cross-border peacekeeping operations where appropriate. The briefings also provided an overview of the situations relating to refugees and internally displaced persons in several countries and regions, including Darfur in the Sudan, Chad, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and the Great Lakes region including Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following the briefings, members of the Council made statements and asked questions, and the High Commissioner then responded to points raised by the members of the Council.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> 5168th, 5229th, 5293rd, 5332nd, 5375th, 5538th, 5601st, 5679th, 5779th and 5806th, held on 25 April, 20 July, 26 October and 19 December 2005, 21 February, 28 September and 20 December 2006, and 22 May, 14 November and 17 December 2007, respectively.

---

<sup>5</sup> See S/PV.5792.

<sup>6</sup> See S/PV.4973 and S/PV.5353.